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Volume 18, No. 16

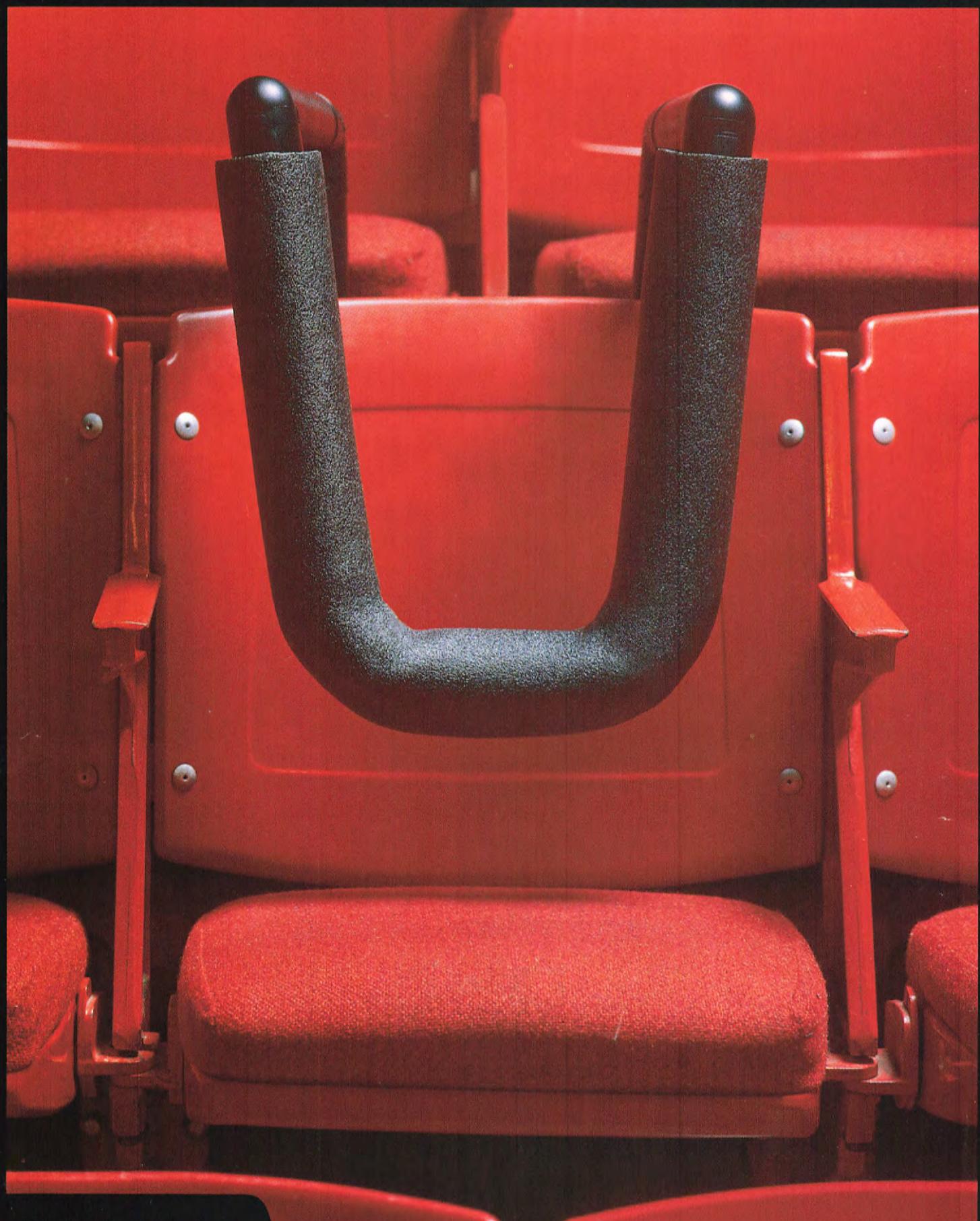
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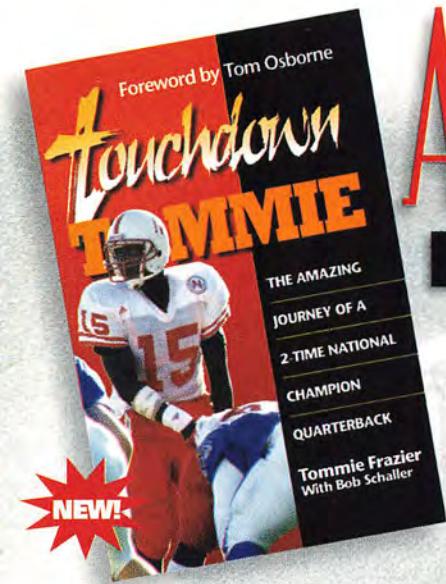
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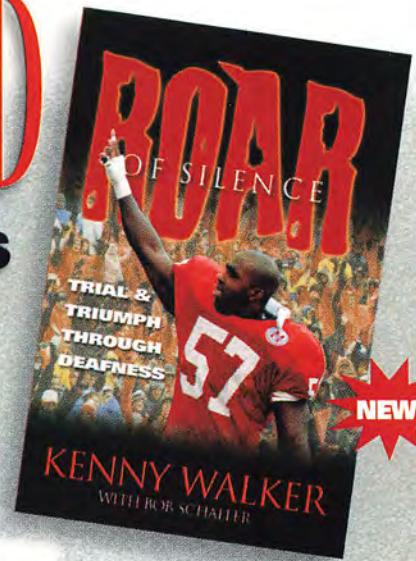
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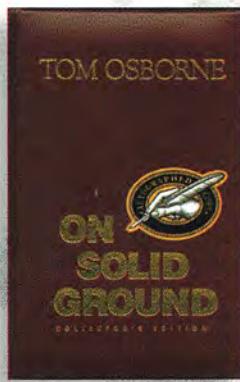


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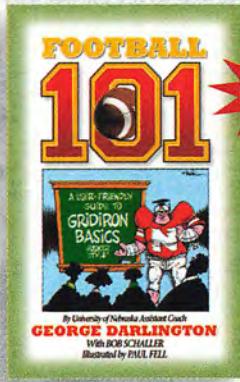
His world is one without sound. But Kenny Walker made his own noise through his actions growing up in Texas and Colorado. Deaf since suffering meningitis at age 2, Kenny went on to become an All-American at the University of Nebraska before playing five years of professional football. Walker has led a life that is a shining example to both those with disabilities and those without.



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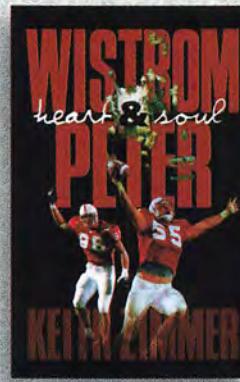
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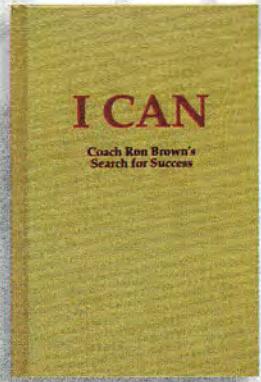
Longtime Nebraska football assistant coach George Darlington helps any fan understand football better - especially a Husker fan. *Football 101* is illustrated by well-known cartoonist, Paul Fell. It provides insight and guidance for all kinds of football fans. Anyone can become an armchair quarterback through *Football 101*.



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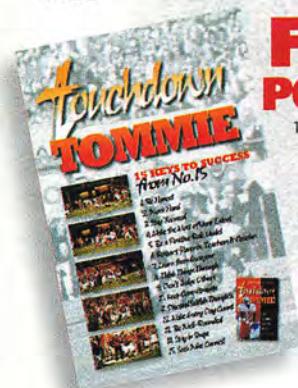
College football coaches, players, fans and media alike regard former Nebraska football defensive stars Jason Peter and Grant Wistrom as two of the most determined and talented players nationwide. All-American's Peter and Wistrom shared their dream of returning Nebraska football to perfection and the national championship in 1997.



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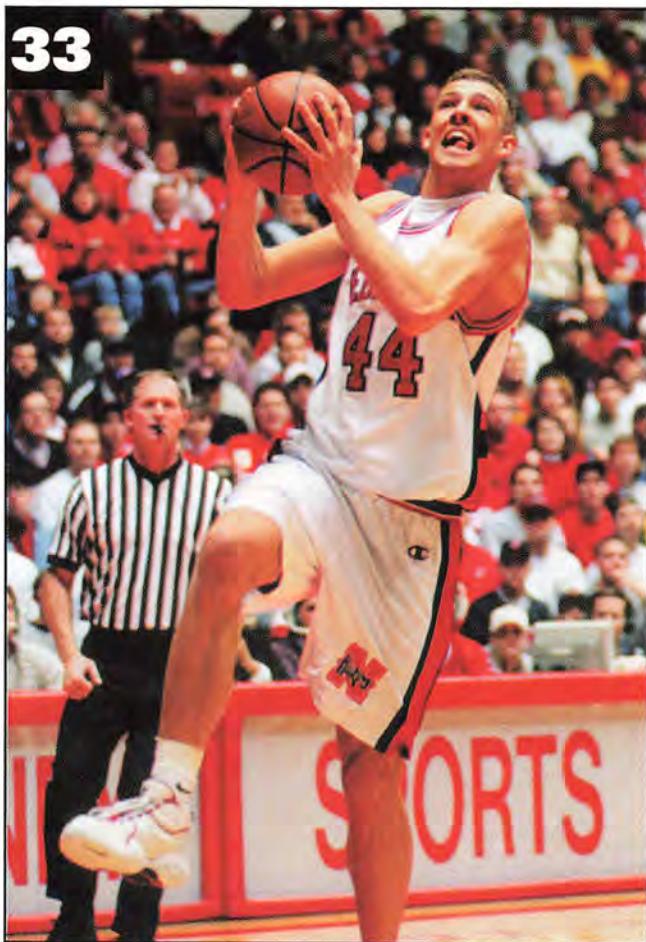
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Huskers Illustrated

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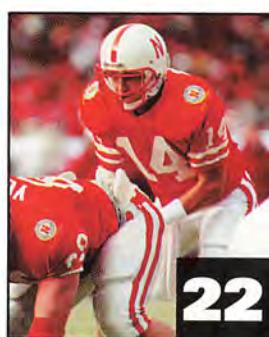
He's viewed by some as aloof — a typical New Yorker. He's even been called a used car salesman. In reality, he's none of these things; just a basketball coach trying to win over a football hungry state.
By Mike Babcock

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The review of the Iowa State game and the pre-view of Kansas State will mail on Nov. 9.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Right Player, Wrong Position

How come the Nebraska coaches didn't leave Bobby Newcombe at wingback? He is a guy who makes things happen when he touches the ball. We need him over there more this year. As long as Newcombe plays quarterback, his talent is wasted. What would have happened if the coaches had put Johnny Rodgers at quarterback instead of wingback, the position he is famous for playing? I'm not a know-everything armchair quarterback, but it just makes sense to me.

Mike Behmer
Hastings, Neb.

New Jersey Lovebirds

Being a 29-year-old from central New Jersey, I can't recall how or why I became a Big Red fan, but it's all I can remember. I went to both Big 12 championship games and the 1998 Orange Bowl, but I've never been to Lincoln. With my birthday coming up, my fiancee, Kim, gave me an early present: Nebraska vs. Washington! Finally getting into Memorial Stadium and being a part of that sea of red I had seen pictured so many times was a tremendous thrill. Walking onto Tom Osborne Field after the game and having our picture taken (Thank you, Boy Scout usher!) made it a truly fantastic trip. We had a great time, and you folks from Nebraska are some of the best we've ever met. Thanks so much.

Jim Stewart
Old Bridge, N.J.



Jim Stewart and his fiancee, Kim, traveled from New Jersey to experience Husker football at Memorial Stadium.

Football, Not Politics

I continue to enjoy *Huskers Illustrated*. However, please stop asking these guys what they think of the Ken Starr investigation ("10 Questions"). They are football players, not political pundits.

Chris Henderson
via E-mail



Husker In Ohio

I am a displaced Husker fan living right in the middle of Big 10 territory in Columbus, Ohio. That's right, just down the street from good old Ohio State University. Believe me, I'm really upset that Nebraska lost to Texas A&M, because I thought that this was the year

Nebraska would shut all these OSU fans up by whipping them in the Fiesta Bowl. I know a lot of things could still happen, but it's not looking good at this point.

I hate to say this, but I think OSU might have a better football team this year. The past few years both teams have had excellent talent, but I always felt the Cornhuskers played harder and more physical than the Buckeyes. They just seemed to want to win more than the Buckeyes. That's what has me worried about this year's team. Not that they lost or had a close game here or there, but because the intensity on both sides of the ball seems to be lacking. On offense I don't see any linemen making any pancake blocks or shoving defenders 8 to 10 yards off the ball. Why do the running backs go down after just one hit and seem to be afraid to take the ball into the interior of the defense? The defensive line and linebackers seem to get pushed around every game. Last but not least is the secondary, which gets burned consistently on third-and-long plays. Let them catch the ball in front of the first down marker for a change. I know this may seem like I'm slamming my team, but I just want them to play harder so I can always be proud I'm a Husker fan, win or lose.

Cole Staten
Columbus, Ohio

Got Something To Say?

Please send your comments and questions to: Letters, P.O. Box 83222, Lincoln, Neb. 68501. Or fax them to us at (972) 851-1720. We reserve the right to edit the letters for clarity, content and length. For those with electronic mail abilities, huskersedit@sportscom.com.

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Dealing With Road Rage

Away games haven't been quite so special for either the team or a certain columnist. Iowa State may be just the cure both need



**Mike
BABCOCK**

ORDINARILY, I would have checked a map. But the desk clerk at the motel in Austin, Texas, didn't hesitate when giving the directions. Just head west on Highway 290 she said.

And she did say west. I have a witness.

Our destination was College Station, Texas, and the Nebraska-Texas A&M game.

If you're not familiar with Texas, College Station is 100 or so miles east of Austin, which we discovered after about two hours of driving west on Highway 290.

We got as far as Fredericksburg, Texas, before turning around.

The good thing is, we left Austin a little after 7 a.m., so we reached Kyle Field a couple of hours before kickoff. The bad thing is, what should have been less than a two-hour drive took five hours.

"The way things are going, Nebraska will probably lose," my associate said as we walked from the press will call window, where there was a minor mix-up with our credentials, to the stadium.

He was right. The Cornhuskers went the wrong direction as well.

After returning to Lincoln, I vowed the next road trip would be different.

Although Nebraska managed to win the previous week against Oklahoma State at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, the road trip was no less trying, despite being considerably shorter.

The traffic was so heavy heading south on Interstate 435 that it took about three hours to go the last three miles. It looked like the road to Woodstock. Rather than risk missing the opening kickoff, many people simply got out of their cars and walked down the interstate to the stadium.

Someone (who drew the short straw) had to remain with the cars, of course, and eventually drive them to the stadium parking lots.

My passengers from the *Lincoln Journal Star* and I all remained with our rental car. I missed the opening kickoff and about two minutes of the game while parking the car.

After returning to Lincoln, I vowed the next road trip would be different.

Nebraska's first road trip this season was to Berkeley, Calif., to play California. I planned to arrive early to avoid the traffic, which was bound to be heavy because of the number of Cornhusker fans making the trip west — atten-

dance at the game was about double what it usually is.

I left Interstate 80 west at the University Avenue exit about three hours before kickoff.

California's scenic Memorial Stadium is maybe five miles from that exit — at the most. I got to the press box about a half-hour before kickoff after sitting in bumper-to-bumper traffic in less-than-scenic downtown Berkeley and leaving my rental car double-parked on a residential street.

After returning to Lincoln, I vowed the next road trip would be different.

My road experiences on behalf of *Huskers Illustrated* this season have been interesting, should I say? I haven't recounted them here because of any thoughts that you would, or should, care.

Those are the minor discomforts of an otherwise great job.

Ordinarily, I try not to intrude in what I write. In this case, however, my misadventures on the road have been a kind of metaphor for Nebraska's experiences away from home this season. The Cornhuskers not only lost at Texas A&M, they struggled against Oklahoma State in Kansas City, and they didn't exactly overwhelm California.

Now, after three weeks at home, Nebraska is going back on the road to play Iowa State.

It will be brutally cold in Ames, which seems to be the coldest place in the continental United States. Although I've never been there in the summer, it's probably cold even then.

Other than the potential for frostbite, having to endure arctic cold and gas-line freeze, the trip to Iowa State shouldn't be a problem. What happened at Ames in 1992 isn't going to be repeated.

That's assuming Nebraska isn't looking ahead to next week's trip to Kansas State.

In that sense, this is yet another test for first-year head coach Frank Solich. Can he keep the Cornhuskers focused on Iowa State when the Wildcats await?

Nebraska lost only once to an opponent that finished with a losing record during Tom Osborne's 25 seasons as head coach, dramatic evidence of his one-game-at-a-time approach. Solich has followed his lead.

That's why he will say kind things about the Cyclones this week. Nebraska will be well-prepared.

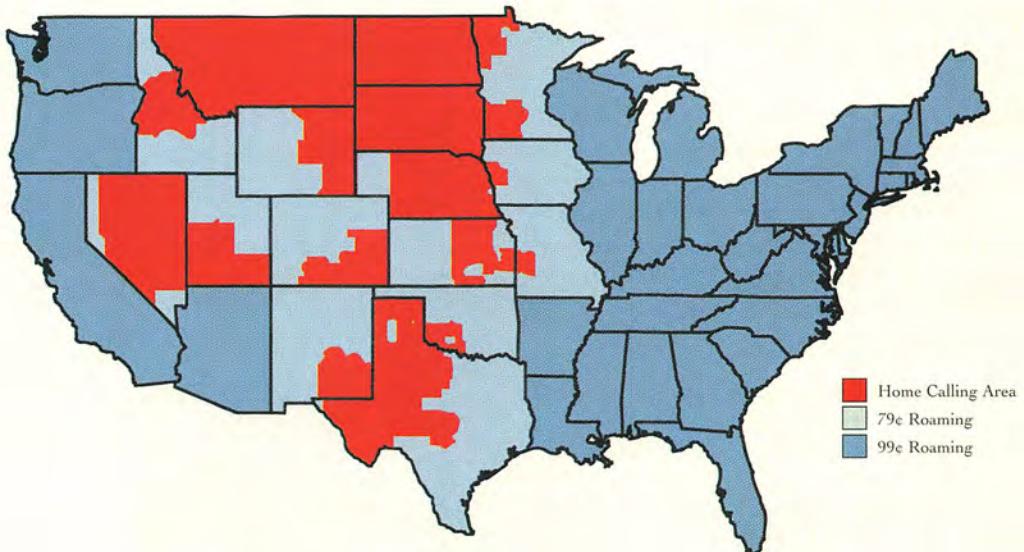
As for me, I've been to Ames, so I know I've got to go east on Interstate 80 and then north on Interstate 35.

This time, I intend to get it right. Then I'll worry about getting to Manhattan, Kan. ■



Tom Osborne treated every opponent as if it were a national title contender. Solich has followed his lead.

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The Dreaded 'P' Words

Predictions, prospects and parity get tossed around like jump balls, but is there really any truth to the rumor that Nebraska can contend?

If you're looking to feel good about the prospects for the Nebraska men's basketball season, you might consider buying a copy of *Lindy's* 1998-99 college basketball annual. • Although *Lindy's* predicts the Cornhuskers will do no better than a fifth-place finish in the Big 12, it does project them to at least make the NCAA Tournament field.

Nebraska is included among the first-round-exit teams, however, which isn't likely to make Cornhusker fans happy, much less 13th-year coach **Danny Nee** and his players.

Nevertheless, on balance, *Lindy's* is easily the most complimentary of the pre-season annuals, noting: "The Huskers boast the best player in the conference and a superb coach."

The player is senior center **Venson Hamilton**, whom the magazine includes on its All-Big 12 first team and picks as the conference's best rebounder, best defender and best NBA prospect.

In contrast, *The Sporting News* annual identifies Hamilton as the Big 12's "most overrated player," and doesn't include him on its first or second all-conference teams. Go figure.

The Sporting News also

predicts a seventh-place Big 12 finish for Nebraska. *Athlon Sports* has the same opinion of the Cornhuskers' finish, but includes Hamilton on its all-conference first team, as does *Street & Smith's*, which ranks Nebraska as the Big 12's fifth-best team.

Nee agrees with the consensus of opinion about Hamilton's potential. But he's more optimistic about the Cornhuskers' chances in the conference, and perhaps nationally.

In order to compete at a high level, "with guys going to the NBA (early), you don't have to have an All-Big 12 team," he said. There are a handful of "great teams, but the rest of us, the other 290 after that top group, you can shake 'em up, and on a given night, they can beat anybody."

"If you tell me my team's on its 'A' game, other than a



Depending which pre-season magazine's predictions Huskers fans believe, Danny Nee's team is a middle of the Big 12 squad with the best NBA prospect (or most overrated) in Venson Hamilton.

couple of teams, we could probably play and look like a competitive team and beat the rest of (those) in the top 10; if we're on our 'A' game. Now if we're on our 'C' game and they're on their 'A' game, we get our butts kicked."

If the Cornhuskers are playing at what Nee considers their "A" level in the Big 12, at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, they should be able to beat anyone, including conference pre-season favorites Kansas and Oklahoma State. The Jayhawks come to Lincoln on Jan. 27, the Cowboys on Feb. 17.

"If you don't play two halves against us and you're

in our building, we'll beat you," Nee said. "Not by a lot, but we're going to beat you. And that's going to give us a chance. We want to be in contention at the end of the year. Our goal is to win the Big 12. But it's hard. It starts in the North Division."

And success in the North Division means winning against Kansas, something Nebraska last accomplished in 1994. The Cornhuskers lost to the Jayhawks three times last season — 96-76 at Lawrence, 82-71 at the Devaney Sports Center and 91-59 in the Big 12 Tournament.

Nebraska finished with a 10-6 conference record,

including 6-2 at home.

"We lost to Kansas State twice and we lost to Kansas twice, so we very easily could have had 12 (conference) wins if things had fallen right," said Nee. "But it still wouldn't have been enough because Kansas lost only one (conference) game. Kansas basketball is a lot like Nebraska football.

"Until you beat the top dog, nothing else is going to happen. And after you beat the top dog, you've got to have consistency. You've got to win on the road, and you've got to win a large percentage of your home games. We've done a decent job of controlling our home court, not a great job, a decent job."

With players leaving early for the NBA — the Jayhawks' **Paul Pierce**, a consensus All-American last

season, bypassed his senior season, as did Nebraska's **Tyronn Lue** — the differences between the conference's top and bottom teams is considerably less significant.

"The word is used a lot, but I really think there's parity," said Nee. "The Big 12 is a very solid conference in basketball. It really is, from top to bottom, good basketball."

In that sense, being predicted to finish in the middle isn't all bad.

Besides, preseason predictions shouldn't be taken too seriously anyway, which is how Hamilton responded to *The Sporting News* slight. "I don't know how I can be the most overrated when I didn't even know I was rated in the first place," he told the *Omaha World-Herald*. ■

Random QUOTES

"There are people out there who have studied it a lot more than I have, who know a lot more about it than I do. But I think it's as fair of a system as you can have right now. So it'll play itself out."

— **Frank Solich** on the Bowl Championship Series rating system

"You always go in with your game plan. But you've got to be ready to make adjustments, and that's basically what we've tried to do throughout the course of the year."

"If we weren't able to get much done on the ground, we have thrown the ball more than what we've thrown in the past. It's all a matter of trying to do what it takes to get points on the board."

"I think you'd better run somewhat of a multiple scheme, a multiple approach. But when you lay out a game plan, you lay it out in terms of what you think you can do. Then you've just got to be ready to adjust your game plan as the game goes along."

— **Solich** on offensive game plans

"I'm from Hartington Cedar Catholic. It's a dream for every kid in Nebraska to try and make it here. I always thought I could do it. I still can't believe it all, though."

— **Sophomore offensive guard Russ Hochstein**, who has worked his way into the regular rotation

"We'll have a point guard that plays a little more defense. He took some vacations."

"Lue's defensive vacations were unavoidable. It's not possible to play 40 minutes at both ends. And Lue rarely got a rest."

— **Senior basketball player Andy Markowski** on the impact of the departure of Tyronn Lue to the NBA



Andy MARKOWSKI

QUICK HITS

What's Happening In Nebraska Athletics?

ROLE MODEL

Sophomore I-back **Dan Alexander** has seen a little more action because of sophomore **DeAngelo Evans'** injury problems. Even though he hasn't played as much as he would like, however, "he's had a tremendous attitude," said coach **Frank Solich**. "It's not been easy for Dan."

"It's not easy for anybody who gets listed as either a second-team or third-team guy when he wants to be the No. 1 guy. But when you have guys who are able to come out to practice every day and give a tremendous effort in practice, keep a great attitude and be more team-conscious than conscious of any individual awards or fame, you've got a player who's really going to contribute."

The 6-foot tall, 250-pound Alexander is "a slashing type of runner with excellent speed," Solich said. "He picks up yards after contact that many, many backs will not get."

NOT LIVING IN THE PAST

Senior wingback **Shevin Wiggins** and sophomore split end **Matt Davison** were in demand by reporters the week before the Missouri game. The reason? The pass reception on which they combined on the final play of regulation in last season's 45-38 overtime victory at Missouri.

Wiggins, the intended receiver, kicked the pass thrown by quarterback **Scott Frost** and Davison made the diving catch. "That play is behind me. It's over and done with," Wiggins said.

"I'm more interested in what's going to happen in the future."

Even so, the subject did come up during the Cornhuskers' final offensive series at the end of their 28-21 loss at Texas A&M this season. "We were between plays," said Wiggins.

"I whispered to Matt: 'If we get to the end zone this time, I'm not kicking the ball to you.'"

The two laughed about it, Wiggins said.

Unfortunately for Nebraska, there was no opportunity to repeat the play.

PETERSON BIDS ADIEU

Junior cornerback **Jerome Peterson** quit the team the week before the Missouri game.

"He's looking to go somewhere else to finish off his last year, somewhere he can play a significant role," Solich said. "He just wants to go somewhere where he can be a starter."

The 5-7, 185-pound Peterson, from Port Allen, La., played primarily on special teams this season. He started the first three games at left cornerback last season, and was listed as the No. 3 right cornerback, behind **Ralph Brown** and **Khari Reynolds**, when he decided to quit.

LONDON SIDELINED

Junior wingback **Frankie London** will be out until at least next spring after undergoing surgery to repair his fractured left tibia. A rod was inserted into his leg, which London injured in the Cornhuskers' 41-0 victory over Kansas.

The initial estimate was that London would be unable to practice for at least six months.

Redshirt freshman quarterback **Eric Crouch** took over the responsibility of holding for field-goal and extra-point attempts. Sophomore **John Gibson** was moved from split end back to wingback to compensate for the loss of London.

"Losing Frankie London was costly," Solich said. ■

Frankie London



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BIG 12 NEWS

Notes And Quotes From Around The League

BLAKE IN DENIAL?

After losing five in a row, Oklahoma coach John Blake is on the firing line. Judging by the comments Blake made the week of the Bedlam Battle between the Sooners and Oklahoma State, that fact doesn't concern him.

"I'm not concerned about my job status," Blake said. "The thing I'm concerned about is trying to get a win for our kids and our fans who have been very loyal and supportive. All of this criticism is making me stronger. But I'm not worried about the job status."

Those loyal and supportive fans have jumped off the Blake Bandwagon in droves the past few weeks. They include influential boosters and some regents who expect Blake to produce the second half of the season or he can clean out in his office after the Nov. 21 season finale against Texas Tech.

Football savvy OU fans are ready for a change at the top. They are tired of the mistakes and costly penalties that have hurt the Sooners. Blake defended himself with the explanation that every team — college and professional — commits penalties.

"We've been an organized football team all year, but we're not going to get that type of credit right now," Blake said. "Those penalties are coming all over the field, even in the NFL. And I think those (NFL) guys are organized."

One thing they (critics) can not say is that we don't play hard every week."

Message to John Blake: Those loyal fans are tired of the excuses and are ready to see results on the field. Or, as the late, great singer Roy Orbison said: "It's over, it's over, it's over" . . .

TURNING DOWN THE HEAT

Rick Neuheisel is one Big 12 Conference coach who moved his fanny to a cooler location with Colorado's 6-1 start. When given the opportunity, Neuheisel declined to fire back at the critics who took shots at him a year ago when the Buffs slipped to 5-6.

"Being a head coach anyplace is like being in the stock market," Neuheisel said. "You're going to get sold at over earnings, and you'll plummet for reasons that may have nothing to do with what you're doing."

"I'm not in the business of patting myself on the back. You can get tired doing that. I'm moving forward. People are going to have their opinions of me."

SHORT SHOTS

• Neuheisel acknowledged that Colorado's conservative ball-control approach this season has been difficult for him to accept. "It's like weaning someone from an addiction," he said. "I like to throw the ball and have it be wide-open and keep going for the jugular. It's different for me to take the air out of the ball and bleed the clock. I want to come racing down the field. That's what I love. That's what I've coached."

• Colorado's first three wins in the Big 12 were all by two-points — Texas Tech, 19-17; Baylor, 18-16; and Oklahoma, 27-25. "The way it goes down (in the record book) is that they all count," Neuheisel said. "There certainly is good fortune involved, but there has also been some good play involved. We aren't giving any of them back."

• Count Texas A&M coach R.C. Slocum among those who shake their heads every week when they read the national polls. And Slocum has a reason — his Aggies were ranked behind Nebraska after they defeated the Cornhuskers, 28-21. "It's probably because of what Nebraska's done over a long period of time, and just the general respect they have earned."

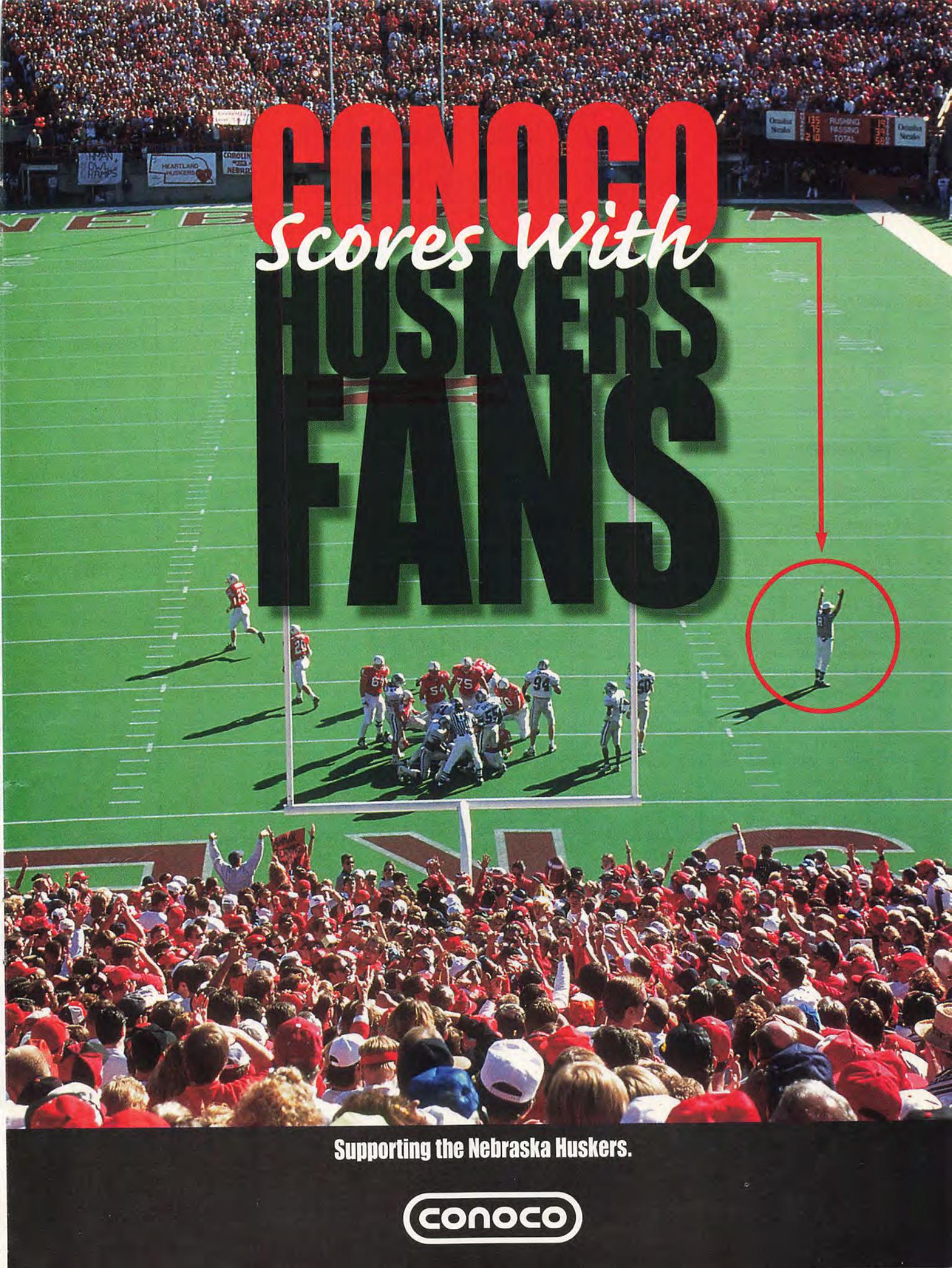
Slocum said, "I never have been able to figure out the polls exactly. So I don't worry about it."

• Colorado defensive end Nick Ziegler looks forward to the Buffs' road games. "You go to places like Missouri and Kansas — they don't have anything better to do. It's flat and cold. There's nothing going on besides football. The fans at those places love their football. They love their team, and they hate you. That makes it fun. It motivates you."

• After Texas Tech suffered its first loss of the season at Colorado, Red Raiders' defensive end Montae Reagor said it: "Everyone loses. Nebraska lost. What are they going to do? Are they going to die?" ■ — **Dave Sittler**



Despite suffering a loss to Colorado, Texas Tech (the surprise team out of the South Division) and Montae Reagor are not ready to die.



CONOCO Scores With HUSKERS FANS

Supporting the Nebraska Huskers.

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A New Queen Of The Court

Nebraska's recent dominance on the volleyball court with home-grown talent proves the sport is not just a west coast thing



BILL DOLEMAN

GIVEN ITS reputation as a west coast sport, one would think that volleyball was invented in a gym or on a beach somewhere in sunny southern California. Nothing could be further from the truth, since the actual birthplace of volleyball couldn't be farther from California. Believe it or not, it's Amherst, Mass., which, by the way, was the site of the 1995 NCAA Division I Championships.

Amherst holds a special place in Husker history because it was there that Nebraska won its first national title with a victory against Texas in the championship match. That national title match had historical significance because it was the first between two non-west coast teams.

It won't be long before that happens again.

Throughout the decade of the 1990s, the sport of volleyball has seen a wave of increased competitiveness sweep the nation from coast to coast. The 1998 season is evidence of that. Heading into November, the top three spots in the American Volleyball Coaches Association poll belonged to, from west to east: Long Beach State, Nebraska and Penn State.

Nebraska had been ranked third for several weeks. It's an impressive ranking for an impressive team, one that has an excellent shot at winning another national championship. Terry Pettit's squad is solid at every position. It has depth, experience, leadership and a team chemistry that is unmistakable and unshakable.

But one of the more eye-catching aspects of the 1998 edition of Nebraska Volleyball is its roster. Of the 15 players who make up the team, 10 hail from within the borders of the Cornhusker State. Three others are from neighboring Iowa, with Hawaii and Wisconsin also represented. It's a group that, if nothing else, proves the west coast is no longer queen of the court.

Bill Feldman, the director of Midwest Scouting in Chicago, says that while California, Illinois and Indiana produce more NCAA Division I volleyball talent overall, Nebraska, given its population base of 1.6 million, is right at the top. "If you could calculate per capita the quality of volleyball being played nationwide and the number of players who get scholarships, I'd say Nebraska figures to be No. 1," Feldman said. "More and more college coaches are starting

to appreciate the quality of Nebraska's talent, but many still don't realize how many high-quality players there are."

One coach who knows is Pettit. Now in his 22nd season as the Huskers' head coach, he has built a program on a foundation made up of Nebraska natives. It's a program that now thrives on more of the same. That's not to say that Pettit hasn't reached beyond the borders; 10 of Nebraska's 18 All-Americans all-time are imports. But a homegrown Husker has always been a good investment.

"The high school programs here are exceptional and the coaches work hard at making sure that the game is played at a high level," Pettit said. "Volleyball is a priority in Nebraska, and I think that the success that the university has had has made an impact on kids to play the sport."

While the Husker head coach dutifully and correctly points to the state for its support of the program, Feldman points to Pettit himself. "You have to give Terry the credit," he said.

Much like little boys who grow up dreaming of one day playing football for the Huskers, little girls hope for a future that includes playing volleyball for the Big Red. Current Husker and Wallace, Neb., native Mandy Monson was one of them. "Nebraska volleyball has such a great following all across the state that I think it's definitely happening," Monson said. "Girls watch the matches on TV and come to the Coliseum, and they look up to players on the team, and I think they want to be a part of it someday."

"I have a lot of pride coming from a small town, and I think it's exciting for people to see young athletes grow up and go to the University of Nebraska and compete in athletics."

Monson isn't alone in living a smalltown-girl-makes-good story. In fact, she's more the norm than the exception. Husker volleyball history has been written by young women from small Nebraska towns such as Bertrand, Waco, Firth and Ogallala, as well as Lincoln and Omaha.

"There's a benefit to us in that the players who are from Nebraska identify with how things are done here," Pettit said.

Which means that for the state's top volleyball talent, there's no place like home. ■



Terry Pettit has built one of the nation's premier programs with local, in-state kids who were well-trained before they arrived at the University of Nebraska.

Bill Doleman's face is familiar to Cornhusker fans. He is host for several Nebraska-related television programs including the "Husker Show" and coaches' shows for Terry Pettit, Paul Sanderford and Frank Solich.

Frozen In Time

Iowa State might never beat Nebraska again, but neither Cyclone or Husker fans will forget what happened in 1992



**Curt
McKEEVER**

WE GIVE IOWA STATE a snowball's chance in you-know-where of beating Nebraska Saturday.

Exactly the same odds we did in 1992, when a particular region did freeze over.

How else do you explain how Iowa State was able to hang a 19-10 defeat on a Nebraska team that had beaten No. 8 Colorado and No. 13 Kansas on successive weeks by a combined score of 101-14.

"This is probably the worst loss since I've been alive," Nebraska center Jim Scott said after the shocking outcome.

When the 1992 Cornhuskers ascended on Ames, Iowa, they were being compared with the greatest teams in school history.

By the time they left, they had helped ISU quarterback Marv Seiler become a legend in the only start of his career. Seiler, a fifth-year senior, had been third string until another player was injured. ISU coach Jim Walden let Seiler start because it was his last game for the Cyclones.

The slow-footed Seiler, from Joliet, Ill., proceeded to rush for 144 of ISU's 373 yards.

"It's a sad day for us and a great day for Iowa State," said Tom Osborne after losing to a team with a sub-.500 record for the only time in his 25-year career. "And I want them to realize what they did. They did a good job."

Perhaps overlooked was the fact the four-touchdown underdog Cyclones had 16 Nebraskans on their roster. Walden had been a Nebraska assistant, and defensive backs coach, Jim Burrow, was a standout player for the Cornhuskers.

"We were just dogs to them, but we were ferocious dogs, protecting something special, and we weren't going to let anybody, even Nebraska, kick our tails," said Iowa State middle linebacker Malcolm Goodwin.

NU trailed 12-10 at halftime. But even though the Huskers struggled with Tommie Frazier being slowed by a knee injury and the top two tight ends being out, they were always just one play away from taking the lead — that is until Seiler broke loose on a 78-yard run around right end early in the fourth quarter that set up a 2-yard touchdown run by fullback Chris Ulrich.

"I think it was the first time I've had a breakaway run, ever," said Seiler, who went to Iowa State only because the

Cyclones were the lone NCAA Division I-A school to recruit him.

"It had to be hard for Nebraska going into the fourth quarter and not be beating the crap out of somebody like they usually do," Goodwin added.

Iowa State beat Nebraska at its own game. The Cyclones committed no turnovers and controlled the ball, owning nearly a 15-minute advantage in time of possession. Their four first-half field-goal drives lasted 11, 12, 13 and seven plays.

"A lot of people probably didn't think we would have to play today," outside linebacker Travis Hill admitted.

Cornhusker free safety Tyrone Byrd never doubted that Nebraska would come back in the second half. But NU couldn't overcome Iowa State's emotion.

"Every guy was playing like it was his last game. That's what Iowa State had on us," Byrd said. "I'm not making any excuses. They were better than Kansas or Colorado today."

To fans of both the Cyclones and Cornhuskers, Nov. 14, 1992, will forever be frozen in time.

"I wouldn't want to play them 10 times to figure out (who's better)," Walden said. "We have not closed the gap on Nebraska. We had a major upset today on a team that's had two tremendously positive emotional up weeks. I knew in my heart they were not going to come in here and play emotionally inspired in the fashion in which they've had to play the last two weeks."

Nebraska, with the nation's most productive offense, was held to 246 yards — less than half its average.

Walden now does a college football television show, and, no doubt he'll be asked about that game this week.

I'm sure current Iowa State coach Dan McCarney would rather leave the past in the past, but what would it hurt for him to pop in a video tape of the 1992 game?

"I don't think anyone ever said during the week that we can win. We just said that we've got to play and then see what happens," Seiler said. "Realistically, you had to look at it and say we probably don't have a chance. But if we go out there and play, anything can happen." ■



In 1992, Iowa State beat Nebraska at its own game — committing no turnovers and controlling the clock.

Curt McKeever is a sportswriter, covering the University of Nebraska for the Lincoln Journal Star. In addition to reporting on football he is the primary beat writer for the men's basketball and baseball teams.

Cyclones Weather The Storm

Despite record, Iowa State has made significant improvement under head coach Dan McCarney

By Mark DEROWITSCH

It's an excuse Iowa State is using this fall, and it likely won't go away anytime soon. At the same time, it's legit.

When the Cyclones walked off the field in Manhattan, Kan., after a 52-7 whipping at the hands of Kansas State, Iowa State's record fell to 2-5 overall and 0-4 in Big 12 Conference play. Sound bad? Well, it is, but there's a good reason for it.

IOWA STATE

1998 Schedule/ Results

S5	TCU	L, 31-21
S12	at Iowa	W, 27-9
S19	Ball St.	W, 38-0
S26	Texas Tech	L, 31-24
O3	at Texas	L, 54-33
O10	Missouri	L, 35-19
O24	at Kansas St.	L, 52-7
O31	Oklahoma	L, 17-14
N7	Nebraska	
N14	at Colorado	
N21	Kansas	

This fall, Iowa State has played perhaps the toughest schedule of any NCAA Division I-A football team in the nation. Here's proof: Iowa State has lost to Texas Tech, Texas, Missouri, Kansas State and TCU. All five teams

but TCU have spent time in at least one of the national top 25 polls, and Kansas State is comfortably sitting in second place.

The five teams that have posted wins against the Cyclones are a combined 26-6.

"The schedule is as tough as there is," Iowa State Coach Dan McCarney said. "But we're improving. You don't see it in a lot of ways, but I think our schedule has a lot to do with it."

Guess what, Cyclones? The schedule doesn't get any easier. In addition to the aforementioned quality opponents, Iowa State gets to play defending national champion Nebraska Saturday in Ames, Iowa.

Want any more bad news, Cyclones fans? After playing Nebraska, ranked seventh in both national polls, Colorado is next up on the schedule.

But McCarney insists the Cyclones have some of the pieces in place to turn things around at Iowa State. The Cyclones do have one of the best passers in the Big 12 in senior Todd Bandhauer, who ranks among the top three leaders in total offense in the conference and who threw for 1,655 yards during Iowa State's first seven games.

But to win in the Big 12, football teams need to establish a top-notch ground game, and the Cyclones haven't been able to do that.

So far this year, Iowa State has aver-

NEBRASKA
(7-2)

@

IOWA STATE
(2-6)



Jay FOREMAN



Darren DAVIS

November 7, 1998 • 1:00 p.m. (CST)
Jack Trice Stadium • Ames, Iowa

aged just 137 yards per game on the ground, which ranks 10th in the Big 12 and 69th nationally.

"We need to do a better job of executing the running game, and we need to because you can't line it up and toss it downfield and expect to do well in this league," McCarney said. "We can't change anything. We've got to do a better job with what we're doing."

When you talk about Iowa State's

Tentative 2 Deeps

IOWA STATE DEFENSE

RE	15	Reggie Hayward*	6-5	240	So.
	36	James Elmore**	6-2	243	Jr.
DT	52	James Reed*	6-0	265	So.
	88	Michael Jackson	6-1	266	Fr.
NG	91	Robert Brannon	6-5	280	Jr.
	98	Nigel Tharpe*	6-4	275	So.
END	26	Chin Achebe***	6-2	255	Sr.
	99	Kevin DeRonde	6-5	255	Fr.
OLB	41	Ab Turner	6-1	210	So.
	34	Jim Morse*	6-1	228	So.
MLB	50	Kip King***	6-0	230	So.
	48	Dave Brcka*	6-2	243	Jr.
OLB	38	Jesse Beckom	6-0	215	Jr.
	19	Kemp Knighten**	5-11	210	Sr.
FS	17	Jeff Waters	6-2	175	Jr.
	12	Jason Parrott	6-1	190	Sr.
CB	8	Jamaricus Powers	5-10	180	Jr.
	14	Dawan Anderson***	5-8	168	So.
SS	7	Dustin Avery*	6-3	200	So.
	24	Doug Densmore*	5-10	196	So.
CB	20	Breon Ansley*	5-6	172	So.
	10	Javon Daniels	6-1	182	Jr.
P	6	Carl Gomez*	6-2	202	So.

IOWA STATE OFFENSE

SE	86	Chris Anthony*	6-3	196	So.
	1	Michael Brantley**	6-0	196	Jr.
LT	72	Bill Marsau**	6-5	300	Jr.
	67	Cory Hennen	6-4	300	Fr.
LG	57	Josh Rank	6-4	280	So.
	76	Ryan Gerke	6-4	305	Jr.
C	79	Charley Bogwill*	6-2	305	Sr.
	68	Zach Butler	6-3	265	Fr.
RG	63	Ben Bruns*	6-3	304	So.
	71	Eugene Bernal	6-3	302	Sr.
RT	75	Marcel Howard	6-6	324	Fr.
	71	Eugene Bernal	6-3	302	Sr.
FL	3	Damien Groce	5-10	175	Jr.
	87	Kenyatta Burris	5-11	185	Jr.
QB	16	Todd Bandhauer**	6-3	232	Sr.
	18	Sage Rosenfels*	6-4	217	So.
TB	28	Darren Davis**	5-8	190	Jr.
	2	Ennis Haywood	6-0	200	Fr.
FB	42	Joe Parmentier***	5-11	251	Sr.
	33	Andre Lee**	6-0	270	Sr.
TE	89	Damian Gibson***	6-4	263	Sr.
	80	Andy Stensrud*	6-7	283	So.
K	45	Jamie Kohl***	6-0	208	So.

NEBRASKA DEFENSE

LR	57	Chad Kelsay***	6-3	250	Sr.
	83	Kyle Vanden Bosch*	6-4	260	So.
NT	99	Jason Wiltz**	6-4	310	Sr.
	96	Steve Warren**	6-1	305	Jr.
DT	91	Loran Kaiser*	6-5	280	So.
	90	Jeremy Slechta	6-5	255	Fr.
RR	84	Mike Rucker**	6-6	250	Sr.
	81	Aaron Wills	6-2	240	Jr.
SLB	37	Tony Ortiz	6-0	215	Jr.
	46	Brian Shaw**	6-1	215	Jr.
MLB	44	Jay Foreman***	6-1	240	Sr.
	13	Carlos Polk*	6-3	245	So.
WLB	1	Eric Johnson**	6-1	205	Sr.
	50	Julius Jackson**	6-0	235	Jr.
LCB	16	Erwin Swiney*	6-0	185	So.
	3	Keywoy Craver	6-0	180	Fr.
FS	19	Clint Finley*	5-11	200	So.
	14	Dion Booker	6-1	205	Fr.
ROV	21	Mike Brown**	5-10	205	Jr.
	25	Joe Walker*	5-10	200	So.
RCB	22	Ralph Brown**	5-9	180	Jr.
	9	Khari Reynolds*	5-10	185	So.
P	23	Bill Lafleur***	5-11	200	So.

running game, you're talking about Darren Davis, the younger brother of former ISU standout Troy Davis, who was a finalist for the Heisman Trophy in 1995 and 1996. Davis is averaging 111.0 yards per game, which ranks 15th nationally. His best game this season came early, when he rushed for 200 yards on 28 carries against Ball



Todd Bandhauer led the Big 12 with 2,514 passing yards a season ago and has responded with another strong showing through eight games in 1998.

State in the third game of the year. Davis has toppled the 200-yard barrier four times in his Iowa State career.

The Cyclones' passing attack is pretty effective with Bandhauer.

Bandhauer is closing in on becoming the best passer in Iowa State history. Through Oct. 24, he has thrown for 4,663 yards and trails only Alex Espinoza's 5,307 mark, which he set

from 1984 through 1986. Against Texas, Bandhauer had a career day. He completed 30 of 62 passes for 437 yards and five touchdowns, all of which established new school records.

So far this season, Bandhauer leads the Big 12 with 1,635 passing yards and is second in the conference in touchdown passes with 13.

He has a pretty decent wide receiver to throw to, too. Damien Groce has 33 receptions for 447 yards and six touchdowns, the latter of which ranks second in the Big 12. Only four Cyclones have caught more touchdowns in a single season than Groce, and he needs just three more to set the all-time Iowa State record in that category.

Sophomore J.J. Moses is a threat to catch the ball out of the backfield, and tight end Andy Stensrud is dangerous. Bandhauer is getting plenty of time to find an open receiver. After getting dumped 26 times last season, Bandhauer has yet to get sacked this season. The line, which received a recent boost when tackles Marcel Howard and Ben Beaudet returned from injuries, is one of the reasons why the Cyclones are ranked fifth in the conference in total offense, averaging 376 yards per contest.

Linebacker Jesse Beckom leads the Cyclone defense a year after he walked on to the program after spending time in Trinity College in Deerfield, Ill., a small school outside of Chicago. Beckom has 60 tackles and is second on the squad with 3.5 sacks.

Defensive end Reggie Hayward leads the team with four sacks while tackle James Reed has been in on 54 stops and also has 3.5 sacks.

This is a defense that has shown signs of improvement, but not nearly enough. The Cyclones held Iowa to 42 yards rushing early in the season and posted its first shutout since 1984 when they blanked Ball State 38-0.

But not all of the numbers look good. Iowa State ranks 99th nationally in rushing defense (giving up 214 yards per game), 104th in pass defense (giving up 1,399 yards in seven games), 93rd in total defense (413.9 yards per game) and 91st in scoring defense (30.3 points per game). ■

TALE OF THE APE

Who Has The Edge?

QUARTERBACKS

Todd Bandhauer is having a solid season, and at this point he's a little more reliable than Nebraska's trio of quarterbacks. Bobby Newcombe won't have to do much against the Cyclones, if he plays at all.



RUNNING BACKS

Darren Davis is no Troy Davis, which the Huskers will prove. Darren will face a hungry Husker defense, which could spell trouble for the Cyclones. The Husker backs continue to do their job.



RECEIVERS

Iowa State has a good receiver in Damien Groce, but the Husker passing game is overlooked. Matt Davison and Shevin Wiggins are as reliable as they come, and the return of Lance Brown and Kenny Cheatham can only help.



OFFENSIVE LINE

This position is one of the keys. Both teams had major question marks on the offensive line heading into the season, but not any longer. Both units are solid, but go with the proven winners here.



DEFENSIVE LINE

Iowa State's sackless string will end against Blackshirts on Saturday. Chad Kelsay and Mike Rucker should be spending a lot of time in the Iowa State backfield — and in Todd Bandhauer's face.



LINEBACKERS

Iowa State has the numbers, Nebraska has the talent. While Nebraska's rush ends garner much of the attention, the linebackers have quietly put together a solid season. Expect more of the same against the Cyclones.



SECONDARY

This will be the Cyclones' biggest challenge of the season. The Iowa State defensive backs will have to play a lot of run defense, but must be careful when the Huskers do decide to air it out.



SPECIAL TEAMS

Average Cyclones versus special Nebraska. Punter Carl Gomez can always expect to be punted several times, and kicker Jamie Kohl is solid. The Cyclones are known for giving up big plays on returns.



HI Predictions

Shawn Heilbron NU, 52-10

Comment: Huskers take out frustrations.

Steve Roe NU, 49-24

Comment: NU runs through paper-thin D.

FL DAMIEN GROCE VS NU CORNERS

KEY MATCHUP

The Cyclones probably know they'll have to have a near-perfect passing day to have any chance to stay with Nebraska, and Groce (pronounced gross) will have to come up big against the best cornerback tandem in the Big 12 Conference.

Groce isn't necessarily big, but at 5-foot-10, 175 pounds, he's dangerous enough to get open and give quarterback Todd Bandhauer a solid target downfield. He also has a knack for finding the end zone, as his total of six touchdown receptions through seven games proves.

Overall this season, he's made 33 catches for 447 yards to help the Cyclones become one of the better passing offenses in the conference. If Groce can have a big day making plays against the Nebraska cornerbacks, Iowa State has a chance to keep the spectators at Jack Trice Stadium interested, at least for a little while. ■

Happy haunting. Texas 20, Nebraska 16.

The Cornhuskers' spell at Memorial Stadium has been broken.

The loss was their first at home since Sept. 21, 1991, when Washington rallied from a 21-16 third-quarter deficit to win, 36-21. Nebraska had won 47 in a row at home.

The streak was the longest current streak in NCAA Division I-A, and the fifth-longest all-time.

The loss also was the first to an unranked opponent at home since Nov. 18, 1978, when Missouri spoiled a national championship opportunity, defeating the Cornhuskers, 35-31.

Shrieks and moans. And a collective groan. It was Halloween.

Even so, the Cornhuskers' undoing wasn't things that go bump in the night. Rather, it was undone by some big plays they allowed on defense and some big plays they didn't make on offense.

"We were so off and on," said defensive coordinator Charlie McBride. "One minute we looked good. The next minute we looked awful."

That was especially true early in the game, which was played in 40-degree temperatures and a stiff north wind. "We looked a little flat early," McBride said. "I don't know what it was. Everybody was watching to see what was going to happen."

Everybody included the fans, players and coaches, he said.

"There didn't seem to be any enthusiasm."

Had it not been for a 27-yard field goal by Kris Brown on the final play of the first half, the Cornhuskers would have gone to the lockerroom without a point.

Texas, in contrast, scored on the game's first series, driving 68 yards on 11 plays for a touchdown, which came on a 16-yard pass from Major Applewhite to Derek Lewis.

It was the same Lewis who caught a James Brown pass and gained 61 yards on a fourth-and-1 at the Longhorns' 28-yard line in the final minutes of the 1996 Big 12 championship game in St. Louis.

Texas pulled the upset of Nebraska that day, 37-27.

This time, 27 points would have been sufficient to win.

"Offensively, we really didn't get anything going in terms of the ground game, to get the option going," said coach Frank Solich. "Our inside (running) game was quite a bit of a struggle. It was rough going on the ground."

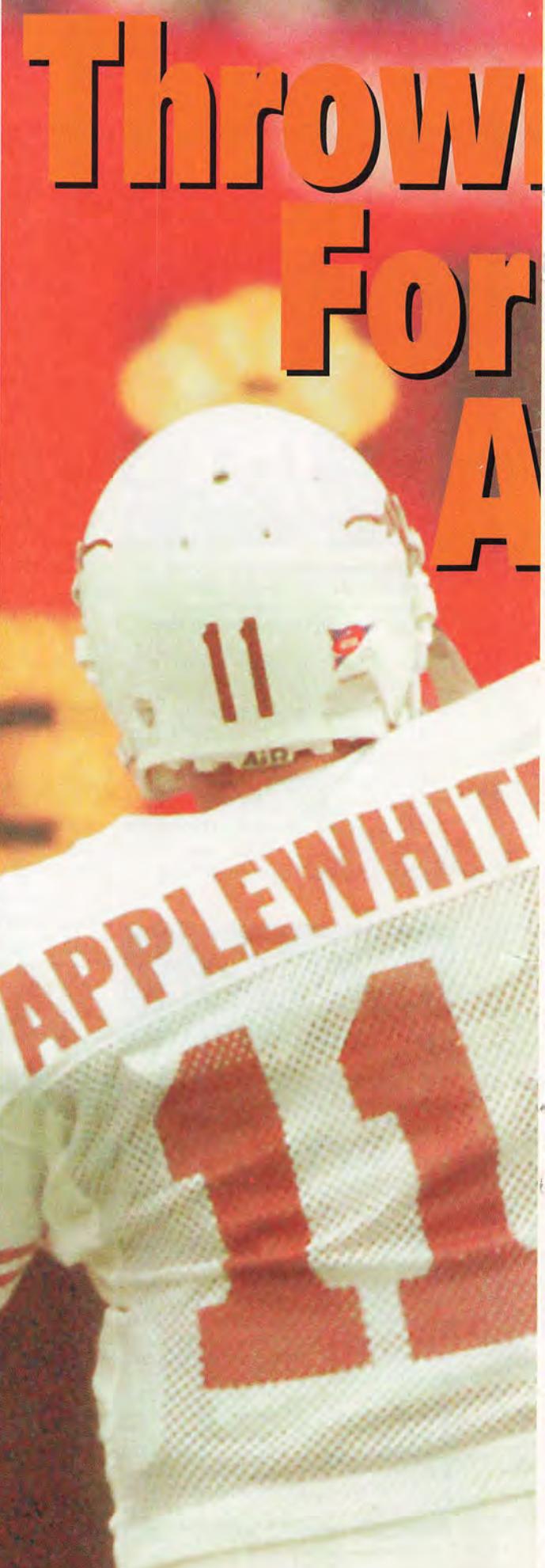
The Cornhuskers rushed for 194 yards, more than Texas but well below their average. And even though Texas finished with a net of 129 rushing yards, it was able to mount a consistent running threat in the person of Ricky Williams, who could become the leading rusher in Division I-A history.

Williams, the nation's leading rusher, finished with 150 yards on 37 carries to increase his season's total to 1,634 yards and his career total to 5,789 yards. He needs 294 yards in three remaining regular-season games to pass Pittsburgh's Tony Dorsett on the all-time list.

"People have said that I don't run well against good defenses," said Williams, the favorite to win the Heisman Trophy. "Today I showed that's not true. I think I worked hard for everything I got."

McBride wasn't about to dispute that. "If he doesn't win the Heisman Trophy, I don't know who the heck

Jason Wiltz can't get to Texas quarterback Major Applewhite, who burned the Cornhuskers for 269 yards and two touchdowns.

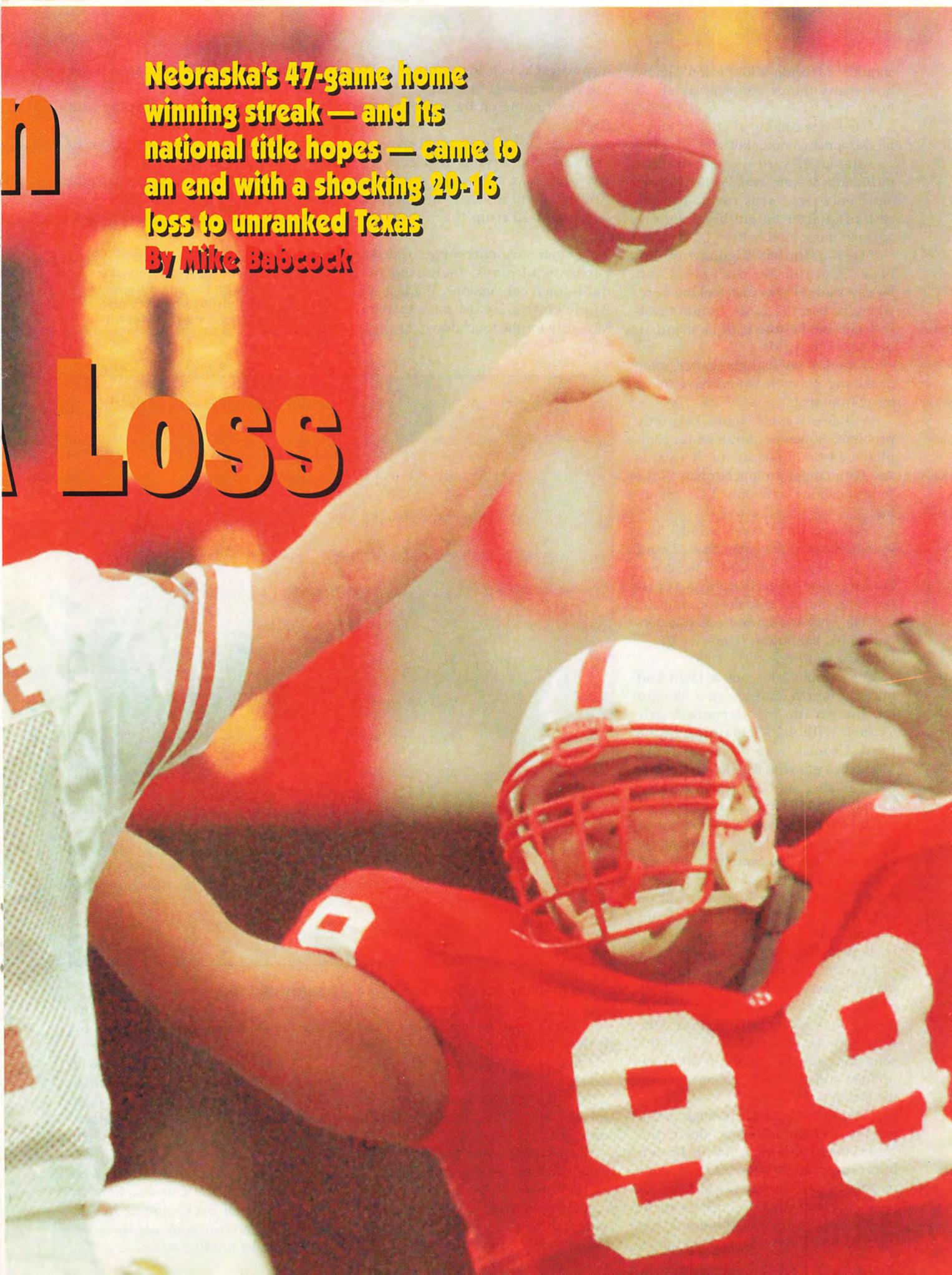


Scott Buihn

Nebraska's 47-game home winning streak — and its national title hopes — came to an end with a shocking 20-16 loss to unranked Texas

By Mike Babcock

A Loss



should," McBride said. "I don't know how many things you can say about him."

"He keeps coming at you. At times, he was a man among boys."

After an 82-yard first quarter that included a 38-yard run, Williams managed only five yards rushing in the second quarter before breaking out again in the second half.

"He's definitely a good running back," Cornhusker rush end Chad Kelsay said. "I was just looking here, where he had 150 yards. It didn't really seem like he tore it to us like that. But he got his yards."

"I think if we had eliminated some of the big plays, it would have taken away from that."

Williams wasn't Nebraska's only problem, however. Applewhite completed 14-of-26 passes for 269 yards and both Longhorn touchdowns — the second coming with only 2:47 remaining.

Nebraska had taken a 16-13 lead with 8:33 left in the game on a 42-yard Brown field goal, his third of the game. He kicked a 47-yard field goal just over four minutes into the second half.

"The way we started out (the second half), I thought, 'Here we go,'" McBride said.

The Cornhuskers took a 13-10 lead into the fourth quarter, on a 38-yard touchdown run by quarterback Eric Crouch with 3:28 remaining in the third. Crouch, who replaced starter Monte Christo with 8:24 left in the first half, finished as Nebraska's rushing leader, with 108 yards on 17 carries.

Crouch had missed the three previous games and played only briefly against Oklahoma State because of a hip-pointer. Christo started in place of Bobby Newcombe, who didn't suit up in hopes that an injured left posterior cruciate ligament might heal sufficiently, allowing him to avoid surgery.

Crouch was the first Cornhusker player to show up for post-game interviews in the South Stadium varsity lounge. "It's not really hard (to face the questions in defeat)," he said. "It's something I felt I needed to do, come up here and share my feelings, (share) the feelings of the team."

Two plays from scrimmage and a penalty after Crouch's touchdown run, Nebraska cornerback Ralph Brown intercepted an Applewhite pass and returned it to the Texas 12-yard line.

It appeared the Cornhuskers might finally take control of the game. On third-and-5 from the Texas 7-yard line,

however, Crouch lost a fumble. The ball was "stripped," he said.

"The fumble on the goal line was costly."

Texas went on an eight-play, 89-yard drive to a tying field goal. The key play was a 76-yard pass from Applewhite to Bryan White on third-down-and-10 from the UT 19-yard line.

The game-winning drive covered 85 yards on 14 plays, including four third-down conversions, the last was Applewhite's 2-yard pass to Wane McGarity for the touchdown.

from the backside. Just before Rucker reached him, and as Joe Walker was leaping toward him, Applewhite released the low pass to McGarity.

"They made more of their opportunities than we did," Solich said. "Offensively, Applewhite was able to get some things done through the air and that, with their running attack,

Eric Crouch, who led the Cornhuskers with 108 yards on the ground, sprints for a 38-yard touchdown run to give Nebraska a temporary 13-10 fourth-quarter lead.



On first-and-goal from the 3-yard line, Williams gained two yards. On second-and-goal, he lost a yard. Mike Brown, who rotated between rover and free safety, was involved in both tackles.

The junior from Scottsdale, Ariz., finished with 18 tackles, a team season-high.

"They made some big plays. That really killed us," said Brown.

With many in the crowd of 76,434 expecting Williams to get the ball again, Applewhite rolled to his right with rush end Mike Rucker in pursuit

made it difficult."

Solich, and everyone else on the Nebraska sideline, was impressed by Williams.

"He's a great running back," said Solich. "I don't have any doubts that he's one of the best around. I thought he ran hard and got a lot out of plays. I've always been impressed with Ricky."

Sophomore Dan Alexander was impressive for the Cornhuskers in relief of Correll Buckhalter at I-back, gaining 60 yards on eight carries — six of them in the fourth quarter.

4TH & INCHES

More News From The Texas Game

Buckhalter endured a frustrating game, finishing with 18 yards on eight carries. "We were just searching for ways to make big plays," Solich said of the decision to replace him.

The Longhorn defenders seemed to be everywhere. "They were getting to the ball extremely quickly," Alexander said. "It seemed like they blitzed on almost every play. Sometimes they hit us before the ball was there, and we couldn't get anything done. They were very fast."

Texas went into the game ranked 77th in the nation in total defense and 64th against the run, but the Longhorn defense turned in a great effort against the Cornhuskers.

"Their inside people seemed to be strong and held their ground," Solich said. "They did a fair amount of plugging and blitzing of linebackers."

The victory was the Longhorns' sixth in eight games and their fifth in a row, moving them into second place in the Big 12's South Division, behind Texas A&M.

The Cornhuskers drop to 7-2 overall and 3-2 in the conference and into a third-place tie with Colorado in the North Division. Kansas State (5-0) leads the division, followed by Missouri (4-1).

"It's hard to take this loss," said senior middle linebacker Jay Foreman, who was credited with 10 tackles. "I felt this was a big game for us to step into the national title hunt."

Any hopes Nebraska had of playing for the national championship this season were eliminated by Applewhite's pass to McGarity.

"There's nothing we can do about the loss," Foreman said. "We've just got to move on now. I'm a little bit (concerned); I'll be honest with you. This whole season, I don't think . . . I mean, ever since I've been here, the Nebraska teams have been a lot different."

"I don't know what it is or what's going on. I really can't put a hand on it. It's a hard team to read before a game. Maybe you think they're ready, and (they) come out and don't play up to potential."

"So it's going to be interesting how we bounce back next week against Iowa State and also another big game against Kansas State down there. It's going to take everything we have to beat them."

Foreman tempered his remarks, however. "We'll be up to the challenge," he said. ■

• For what it's worth, the loss to Texas was Nebraska's first-ever on Halloween. The Cornhuskers had a 16-0 record in games played on Halloween. It was their first loss to an unranked opponent since the 37-27 loss against Texas in the 1996 Big 12 championship game in St. Louis.

• Texas tailback **Ricky Williams** went into the game averaging 212 rushing yards per game. He reached 100 yards with 9:45 remaining in the third quarter. He had 122 yards after three quarters.

Williams' 150 yards tied for the third-best total by an individual against Nebraska during the 1990s. Colorado's **Rashaan Salaam** tops the list with 165 yards in 1993. Oklahoma's **De'Mond Parker** rushed for 151 yards in 1996. And Virginia Tech's **Ken Oxendine** rushed for 150 yards in the 1996 Orange Bowl.

All three of those games were Cornhusker victories.

• Texas coach **Mack Brown** complimented Nebraska's fans. "I have coached a lot of years and I have never seen as many fans say 'Coach, good game' or 'Coach, good luck next weekend,' giving **Ricky** a standing ovation as our kids left the field and saying 'Congratulations on the Heisman.'

"Nebraska has the best fans in the country. Words are hard to express for your kids when you come into a place like Lincoln and the fans are as classy as anywhere in America."

• Williams was similarly complimentary. "I walked in (to the stadium), saw the sea of red and said: 'Oh my God!' I never realized how great of a football state this was. It's really amazing."

"I wanted to comment on how great the fans were here. Most places you go, the fans boo you. But here it's nothing but cheers. This is probably the most fun I've ever had playing a game."

• Senior **Monte Christo** became the second walkon to start at quarterback for Nebraska in the 1990s. **Matt Turman**, a walkon from Wahoo, Neb., started the 1994 Kansas State game. Other walkons who have started at quarterback for the Cornhuskers include **Travis Turner** (1984) and **Steve Runty** (1973).

• The last time Nebraska led going into the fourth quarter and lost was the Washington game in 1991.

• Quarterback **Bobby Newcombe** (left posterior cruciate ligament) and I-back **DeAngelo Evans** (bruised tailbone) both were held out of the game because of injuries. Among those injured during the game were tight end **T.J. DeBates** (left medial collateral ligament sprain), free safety **Clint Finley** (right knee sprain reaggravated) and fullback **Joel Makovicka** (right shoulder sprain).

• Sophomore split end **Matt Davison** caught one pass for a 7-yard gain. Davison has caught at least one pass in every game this season and is the Cornhuskers' leading receiver with 27 for 335 yards.

• Nebraska's 16 points is a season low. Its four sacks allowed tied a season high.

• Punter **Bill Wiggins** helped keep the Cornhuskers in the game, averaging 47.8 yards on five punts. His first four punts pinned Texas inside its 20-yard line (at the 11, 8, 10 and 8, respectively).

• Place-kicker **Kris Brown** scored 10 points to increase his school career record to 366. Said Brown of the loss: "Really, there are no words to describe it." ■



Shevin WIGGINS

1998 Schedule/Record (7-2)

Aug. 29	vs. Louisiana Tech\$	W, 56-27
Sept. 5	Ala.-Birmingham	W, 38-7
Sept. 12	@ California	W, 24-3
Sept. 26	Washington	W, 55-7
Oct. 3	vs. Oklahoma St.&	W, 24-17
Oct. 10	@ Texas A&M	L, 28-21
Oct. 17	Kansas	W, 41-0
Oct. 24	Missouri	W, 20-13
Oct. 31	Texas	L, 20-16
Nov. 7	@ Iowa St.	1 p.m.
Nov. 14	@ Kansas St.	1:10 p.m.
Nov. 27	Colorado	1:30 p.m.

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(Times are subject to change and are Central)

BY THE NUMBERS

Nebraska vs Texas
Oct. 31, 1998 • Lincoln, Nebraska

Score By Quarters

Texas	7	3	0	10	—	20
Nebraska	0	3	10	3	—	16

Team Stats

UT NU

First Downs	19	18
Rushing	8	12
Passing	9	4
Penalty	2	2
Rushing Attempts	43	47
Yards Gained Rushing	160	241
Yards Lost Rushing	31	47
Net Yards Rushing	129	194
Net Yards Passing	269	117
Passes Attempted	27	17
Passes Completed	14	10
Had Intercepted	1	0
Total Plays	70	64
Total Net Yards	398	311
Avg. Gain Per Play	5.7	4.9
Fumbles-Lost	1-0	3-1
Penalties-Yards	9-88	5-45
Punts-Yards	6-198	5-239
Avg. Per Punt	33.0	47.8
Punt Returns-Yards	1-4	3-10
Interceptions-Yards	0-0	1-17
Fumble Returns-Yards	1-4	0-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	4-81	4-54
Possession Time	31:04	28:56



Shevin Wiggins led the Huskers' receiving corps with four catches for 59 yards in a losing effort.

Individual Leaders

NEBRASKA

RUSHING

Name	Att.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Crouch, E.	17	108	6.4	38	1
Alexander, D.	8	60	7.5	22	0
Buckhalter, C.	8	18	2.3	8	0
Makovicka, J.	7	11	1.6	5	0
Christo, M.	7	-3	-0.4	7	0

PASSING

Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Crouch, E.	6-13-0	46.2	59	0
Christo, M.	4-4-0	100.0	58	0

RECEIVING

Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Wiggins, S.	4	59	14.8	36	0
Jackson, S.	3	26	8.7	13	0
Buckhalter, C.	1	15	15.0	15	0
Brown, L.	1	10	10.0	10	0
Davison, M.	1	7	7.0	7	0

FIELD GOALS

Name	Att.	Good	LNG
Brown, K.	4	3	47

PUNT RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Walker, J.	2	9	4.5	5	0
Brown, R.	1	1	1.0	1	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Walker, J.	4	54	13.5	20	0

DEFENSE

Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Brown, M.	9	18	1-1	0	0	0
Rucker, M.	3	7	10	1-1	0	0
Foreman, J.	2	6	8-2-12	0	1-11	0
Johnson, E.	3	3	6	2-7	0	1-6
Ortiz, T.	3	2	5	0	0	0
Walker, J.	1	4	5	1-1	0	0
Kaiser, L.	1	3	4	1-5	0	1-5
Brown, R.	2	2	4	0	1-17	0
Kelsay, C.	0	3	3	1-1	0	0
Vanden Bosch, K.	1	2	3	0	0	0
Wiltz, J.	2	1	3	0	0	0
Shaw, B.	0	3	3	1-1	0	0
Polk, C.	1	1	2	0	0	0
Finley, C.	0	2	2	0	0	0

TEXAS

RUSHING

Name	Att.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
Williams, R.	37	150	4.1	38	0
Walton, R.	1	-2	-2.0	0	0
Applewhite, M.	5	-19	-3.8	2	0

PASSING

Name	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Applewhite, M.	14-26-1	53.8	269	2
Williams, R.	1-0-0	0.0	0	0

RECEIVING

Name	No.	Yds.	YPC	LNG	TD
McGarity, W.	5	51	10.2	14	1
Cavil, K.	4	70	17.5	37	0
White, B.	2	113	56.5	76	0
Lewis, D.	1	16	16.0	16	1
Brown, R.	1	10	10.0	10	0
Nunez, R.	1	9	9.0	9	0

FIELD GOALS

Name	Att.	Good	LNG
Stockton, K.	2	2	36

PUNT RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Hodges, M.	1	4	4.0	4	0

KICKOFF RETURNS

Name	No.	Yds.	YPR	LNG	TD
Mitchell, H.	3	51	17.0	22	0
Jones, J.	1	30	30.0	30	0

DEFENSE

Name	UT	AT	TT	FL	Int.	Sacks
Hicks, A.	5	8	13	5-18	0	2-11
Renfro, D.	3	7	10	2-5	0	0
Humphrey, A.	3	4	7	1-4	0	1-4
Hampton, C.	1	6	7	1-1	0	0
Jammer, Q.	5	2	7	0	0	0
McCovery, D.	2	5	7	0	0	0
Lewis, D.	2	4	6	0	0	0
Woodard, C.	3	2	5	1-2	0	0
Rogers, S.	2	2	4	1-14	0	1-14
Holmes, T.	4	0	4	0	0	0
Anderson, J.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Brooks, A.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Brown, G.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Jackson, L.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Walker, J.	0	1	1	0	0	0
Jones, J.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Mitchell, H.	1	0	1	0	0	0
Boudoin, M.	1	0	1	0	0	0

'9 SEASON STATS

RUSHING

Name	G	Att.	Yds.	YPG	TD
Buckhalter, C.	9	107	620	68.9	7
Makovicka, J.	9	81	379	42.1	2
Newcombe, B.	6	83	228	35.0	8
Evans, D.	3	38	218	72.7	4
Christo, M.	6	54	189	31.5	2
Alexander, E.	7	45	237	33.8	1
Crouch, E.	5	42	242	48.4	5
Miller, W.	8	17	88	11.0	2
Runtz, J.	3	2	31	10.3	0
Wiggins, S.	9	6	29	3.2	0
Legate, B.	7	5	28	4.0	1
White, D.	5	6	27	5.4	0
Brown, L.	2	1	13	6.5	0
Kingston, B.	2	3	9	4.5	0
Grager, N.	1	1	3	3.0	0
Tillery, A.	1	1	3	3.0	0
Stanislav, J.	1	1	1	1.0	0
London, F.	7	1	-2	-0.3	0

PASSING

Name	G	C-A-I	Pct.	Yds.	TD
Newcombe, B.	6	50-79-1	63.3	712	1
Crouch, E.	5	25-50-1	50.0	295	1
Christo, M.	6	19-27-0	70.4	261	2

RECEIVING

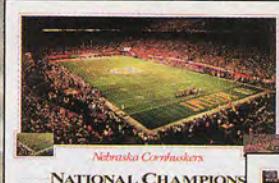
Name	G	No.	Yds.	YPC	YPG	TD
Davison, M.	9	27	335	12.4	37.2	0
Wiggins, S.	9	18	256	14.2	28.4	1
Jackson, S.	8	11	258	23.5	32.3	2
Cheatham, K.	5	10	88	8.8	17.6	0
Buckhalter, C.	9	9	65	7.2	7.2	0
Haake, B.	8	6	54	9.0	6.8	0
Evans, D.	3	3	23	7.7	7.7	0
Wistrom, T.	9	2	84	42.0	9.3	1
Makovicka, J.	9	2	42	21.0	4.7	0
Debates, T.J.	8	1	16	16.0	2.0	0
Brown, L.	2	1	11	11.0	5.5	0

FIELD GOALS

Name	G	Att.	Good	LNG
Brown, K.	9	15	10	48

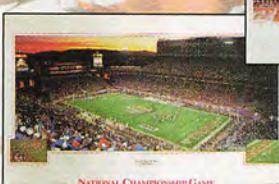
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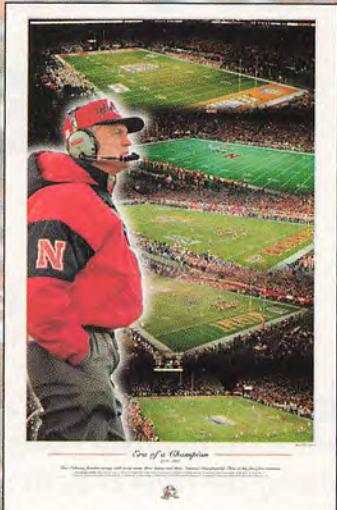


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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

NU's Top 10 QBs...

Gerry Gdowski

With only one season as a starter, he produced some extraordinary statistics during his short time running the Husker option

Gerry Gdowski might easily be overlooked in a listing of the great Nebraska quarterbacks during the Bob Devaney-Tom Osborne era. Typically, such a designation is based on a player's career rather than on a single season. But Gdowski's Cornhusker career amounted to a single season — 1989.

He played on the freshman team his first year at Nebraska, then saw limited action as a backup to Steve Taylor as a sophomore and junior. He never sat out a redshirt season.

Even without the additional year of maturity, however, Gdowski produced some extraordinary statistics during his one season of directing coach Tom Osborne's option offense. And that one season, without question, ranks with the best by a quarterback in Cornhusker history.

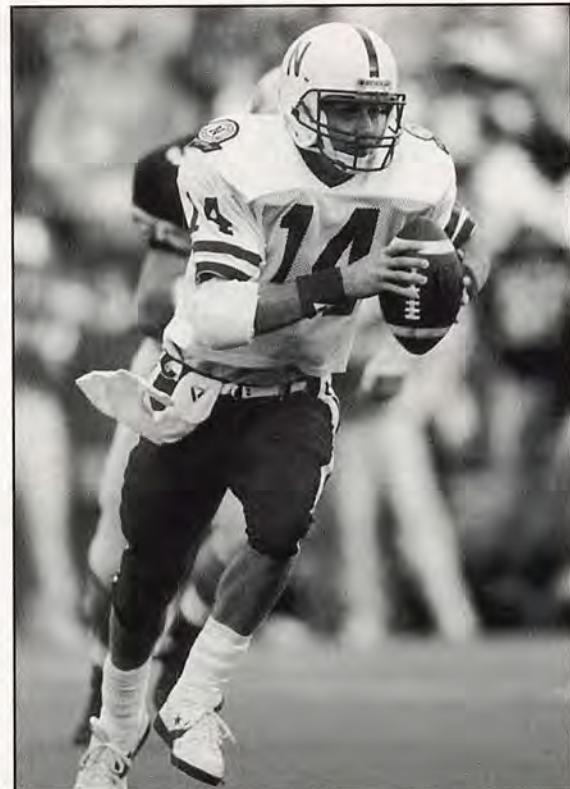
Gdowski set single-season school records for rushing yards (925), pass efficiency rating (177.3), passing yards per attempt (9.75), passing yards per completion (18.68) and total offense per game (204.6). His 2,251 yards of total offense ranks third all-time at Nebraska, behind Jerry Tagge (2,333)

and Scott Frost (2,332). He was first-team All-Big Eight according to the conference coaches. Oh yes, he was also an Academic All-American, earning a cumulative grade-point average of 3.562 as an accounting major.

The academic success was no surprise. His mom was a teacher, his dad was his high school football coach, and he distinguished himself in the classroom from the beginning.

But his football accomplishments as a senior, if not surprising, were certainly unexpected. The Cornhusker media guide for 1989 noted: "Gdowski has the experience and knowledge to run the Husker offense and could surprise some people with his ability to run the option."

Surprise some people? Try a lot of people. Gdowski emerged from competition with sophomores Mickey Joseph and Mike Grant during spring practice as the No. 1 quarterback, but not by a lot.



Osborne seemed satisfied with what he saw in the spring. "The things we looked for in a quarterback we found in Gdowski," Osborne said. "He can run, throw and understands the offense."

Even so, Gdowski had no illusions, noting before the start of preseason practice: "It's going to be a competitive situation every practice, every game, every moment of the fall. You know there's going to be a lot of attention paid to the quarterback, and it's going to be hard to ignore all the hype."

It appeared Nebraska would have a bona fide quarterback controversy.

"The things we looked for in a quarterback we found in (Gerry) Gdowski. He can run, throw and understands the offense."

Tom Osborne

RUSHING QBs

Player	Attempts	Yards	Avg.	TD
Steve Taylor (1985-88)	431-2,125	4.93	32	
Tommie Frazier (1992-95)	367-1,955	5.33	36	
Scott Frost (1996-97)	302-1,533	5.08	28	
Turner Gill (1980-83)	290-1,317	4.54	18	
Gerry Gdowski (1987-89)	152-1,211	7.97	17	
Mickey Joseph (1988-91)	180-1,091	6.06	16	

"I can live without being the starting quarterback, but I can't honestly say how I would feel about the situation," Gdowski said going into fall camp. "In my mind, I don't want to look back and say, 'If I had tried a little harder, I'd have made it.' If I don't start, it wasn't meant to be."

Joseph, a prep All-American from Marrero, La., was rated among the nation's best option quarterbacks coming out of high school, and Grant, who was from Valrico, Fla., had been a pleasant surprise during the spring

CAMPUS LIFE

As Seen Through The Eyes Of Jay Foreman

after leading the freshman-junior varsity team to five victories as a true freshman.

Grant's 912 yards of total offense were second all-time to Turner Gill's 979 in 1980.

And if one of those three couldn't get the job done, Osborne could have turned to sophomores Keithen McCant and Tom Haase or junior Jerry Dunlap. "We'd certainly feel a lot more confident if we had a three-year, two-year or even a one-year starter coming back," he said prior to the season.

Gdowski's experience in two seasons behind Taylor amounted to 6 of 10 passing for 72 yards with no touchdowns and no interceptions and 35 carries for 286 yards and four touchdowns.

He had gotten relatively few carries, but he had averaged a robust 8.2 yards per attempt.

"We want to be able to run enough option for people to have to prepare for it," Osborne once said of his offensive philosophy. "It complicates the defensive preparation if the option is a threat."

And with Gdowski, an eight-time all-class gold medal winner at the Nebraska high school track and field meet, at quarterback, the option was a serious concern for opposing defenses.

Plus, at 6-feet and 190 pounds, he was big enough to take the pounding.

Three games in particular during Nebraska's 10-2 season showed Gdowski at his best.

The Cornhuskers' only regular-season loss in 1989 came at No. 2 Colorado. Nebraska took an eight-game winning streak and a No. 3 national ranking to Boulder and nearly upset the Buffaloes behind an outstanding effort by Gdowski, who passed for 211 yards and three touchdowns.

Nebraska's last offensive possession began at its own 12-yard line with 1:40 remaining and the score 27-21 Colorado. Gdowski directed the Cornhuskers to the Colorado 42-yard line and threw a pass for Jon Bostick in the end zone on the game's final play, but the pass was knocked away.

The week before, Gdowski had rushed for 176 yards, a school-record for a quarterback, and four touchdowns and passed for two touchdowns in a 49-17 victory against Iowa State.

And two weeks after the Colorado game, in his final appearance at

NEBRASKA MIDDLE linebacker Jay Foreman was a gifted running back in high school — he rushed for 950 yards as a senior — but he has always preferred defense because "you're behind the scenes," he said.

That's Foreman. Nothing about him cries out for attention. So much of what he does, what he says, stays within the context of his football team. He's about as flashy as his beat-up brown Chevy.

"It's his personality," Nebraska defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said. "He's kind of a quiet leader; he doesn't say a whole lot. He's a guy who doesn't seek notoriety — he just likes to play the game."

"I think his dad taught him well. I think his dad probably taught him to play as hard as you can, and everything will take care of itself. You don't need your voice to carry you through."

Foreman's father, of course, is Chuck Foreman, the gifted running back on those great Minnesota Vikings teams of the 1970s. He was the National Football League's Rookie of the Year in 1973, the NFC Player of the Year in 1974 and a five-time Pro Bowl selection.

Jay says having a superstar father has always put added pressure on him to perform, to live up to people's expectations, however unfair that may be.

"I like that pressure," the younger Foreman said. "I like pressure. Pressure tells you who's a man and who's a boy."

Pressure is manning the heart of a defense in the maddening chaos of a big-time college football game. McBride said Foreman knows the Nebraska defense "better than anybody around" and that the 6-foot-1, 240-pound senior "never misses a call" during a game.

By the way, Foreman led Nebraska in tackles entering the Oct. 24 Missouri game with 47, two more than junior rover Mike Brown. Foreman brushes aside the statistic.

"I don't look at myself individually," the Eden Prairie, Minn., native said. "I look at the defense as a whole. Right now the defense is playing OK, so I'm playing OK."

"The individual stuff is something that comes and goes."

The Nebraska defense, which many predicted would dominate, has often been "OK" and really nothing more, particularly in a 24-17 win against Oklahoma State and a 28-21 loss to Texas A&M.

The Huskers, however, punished Kansas, 41-0, on Oct. 17 in Lincoln, Neb.

"Our goals are still attainable," said Foreman, alluding to Nebraska's national title chase.

"If people think we're out of it or that we'll go in the tank, they don't know what we're made of."

Chuck Foreman has driven his blue van to nearly every Nebraska home game during the last five years and to every away game within driving distance of his home in Eden Prairie.

Jay called his dad after the A&M game. Father's advice: Go ahead and be angry for a day but feel lucky your team remains in the Top 10 and can still conceivably win all the marbles.

"I'm pretty sure he's been through everything I've been through here and everything I will go through," the younger Foreman said. "Maybe sometimes I don't agree with everything he says. But you have to take it to heart."

"It means a lot, just because he's my dad; not because he was a football player. Hopefully, when I have a little son or little girl, they'll respect me like that." ■ — *As told to Steve Sipple*

Memorial Stadium, he completed 12 of 15 passes for 225 yards and four touchdowns in a 42-25 victory against Oklahoma.

Gdowski, now the quarterbacks coach for former Cornhusker player and assistant Tony Samuel at New Mexico State, led the Big Eight in passing efficiency in 1989, completing 71-of-136 (.522) for 1,326 yards and 19 touchdowns with only two intercep-

tions. His numbers were remarkable.

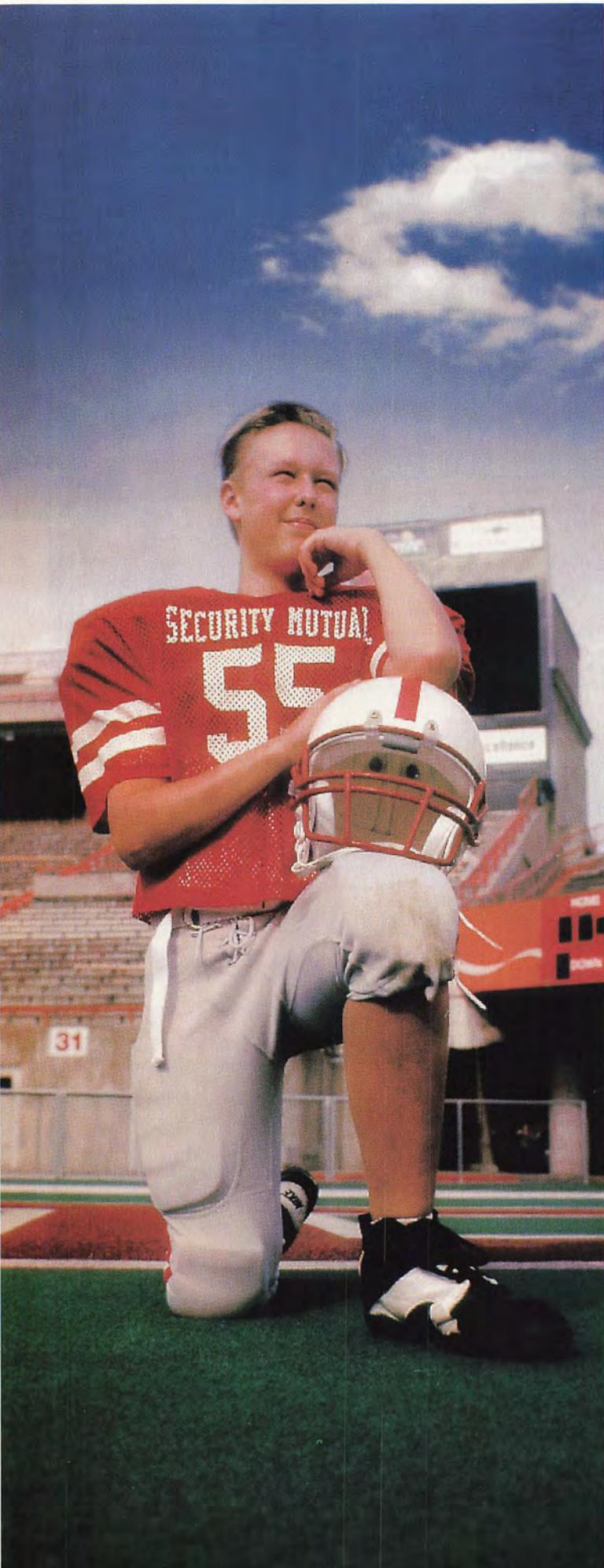
He also averaged 7.9 yards per carry and scored 13 touchdowns.

"There are so many factors — maturity, calling the right audibles, playing with consistency — that go into making a quarterback," Osborne said prior to the 1989 season.

And Gdowski measured up with the best ever to take a snap at Nebraska. ■



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Jamie Burrow grew up in Ames, Iowa.

He was in the second grade when his family moved to Ames from Pullman, Wash., where his dad, Jimmy, was an assistant football coach under Jim Walden at Washington State. When Walden took the head coach's job at Iowa State in 1987, Jimmy went along as defensive backs coach.

Ames has been Jamie's home ever since.

He was a four-year starter on the Ames High football team, earning all-state honors as a senior on the most successful team in school history. His dad was his position coach as a junior and senior.

With his dad on Walden's coaching staff at Iowa State through the 1994 season, Jamie grew up around Cyclone football. His girlfriend attends Iowa State. He has friends and former teammates who play football there. And his next-door neighbor is a biology professor at the university.

Burrow has even worked in an Iowa State biology lab during the summer.

Despite the personal connections to Iowa State, however, Burrow is a red-shirt freshman at Nebraska. He plays on kicking teams and shares the No. 3 middle linebacker position with Ben Buettenback.

Playing for the Cornhuskers is a dream come true, Burrow said recently.

He took only one official recruiting visit, and that was to Nebraska. He made unofficial visits to Iowa State and Iowa, out of courtesy to his home-state schools. But barely a half-hour after former Cornhusker coach Tom Osborne telephoned him at school to offer a scholarship, he accepted.

He was skeptical when he left class to take the phone call. "I didn't believe it," he said.

But the voice on the other end of the line was Osborne's, all right.

"I've got to talk to my dad about it," Burrow told Osborne.

He did, and immediately called Nebraska assistant Dan Young to accept.

Then he called Iowa State coach Dan McCarney.

"It's not easy to tell the coach at your home-state university that you're not coming," Burrow said. "But I

Generation Next

Following in his father's footsteps at Nebraska meant that Jamie Burrow would have to turn his back (at least once a year) to the team he grew up cheering for — Iowa State

Scott Bruhn



didn't want Coach McCarney to read about it in the newspaper."

His friends in Ames "weren't upset with me for coming here," said Burrow. "Everyone back home realizes the (football) tradition here, and I think they're just happy for me."

Obviously, there was more to Burrow's decision to come to Nebraska than what has been noted so far. For one thing, he was born in

Omaha. For another, his dad played for Osborne, earning letters as a defensive back in 1974 and 1975. Jimmy Burrow was a two-year starter at free safety.

The elder Burrow was an eighth-round NFL draft pick of the Green Bay Packers in 1976 and spent one season with them before playing four seasons in the Canadian Football League with Montreal and Ottawa.

He now coaches for the Des Moines-based Iowa Barnstormers in the Arena Football League.

Jimmy was originally from Amory, Miss., where he was coached in high school by Walden. He spent his freshman year at Mississippi, then transferred to Nebraska with help from Walden, who had played for Bob Devaney at Wyoming and was an assistant on Devaney's staff at Nebraska.

In addition to his dad's Nebraska background, Jamie's mom is from Omaha, and she's a Nebraska graduate. "She told me I'm the fifth generation of my family to attend the University of Nebraska. I haven't done the research myself, but that's what she told me," Jamie said with a smile.

Burrow's parents told him a lot of good things about Nebraska while he was growing up.

"My dad always talked about what a great atmosphere there was here," Burrow said. "And whenever there was a Husker game on television, we usually watched it."

Providing, of course, Iowa State wasn't playing.

Jamie attended plenty of games at

Cyclone Stadium, including the one in November of 1992 in which Iowa State upset Nebraska 19-10. Later, he had a shirt made for his dad, "for Father's Day maybe," with the message that the Cyclones' shocking victory was irrefutable "proof there is a God."

"He was real excited about that," Burrow said of the upset. "It was amazing."

Two seasons later, when the Cornhuskers returned to Ames, Jamie's dad introduced him to Osborne on the field before the game. He met some players, including offensive linemen Brenden Stai and Zach Wiegert, and had his picture taken with Osborne, who made an immediate impression.

"I remember him being real nice, kind of soft-spoken. And I couldn't believe how tall he was," said Burrow, who had formulated an opinion of Osborne based on what his dad had told him.

His dad had always spoken highly of Osborne, as well as his experiences at Nebraska.

"Really, my dad can judge people pretty well," Jamie said.

This is a big week for Burrow, who

figures to make the trip to Ames. Some of his high school teammates play for the Cyclones, including sophomore Dustin Avey, a starting defensive back, and redshirt freshmen Jake Hanson, a defensive back, and David Knapp, an offensive lineman.

He's also friends with sophomore tight end Andy Stensrud, who's from Lake Mills, Iowa.

Burrow, whose brother, Dan, is a junior safety on the Ames High football team, keeps track of the Cyclones and pulls for them to win — except when they play Nebraska, of course.

"I loved it when they beat Iowa; I'm not going to lie," he said.

"I told everyone my boys back home finally beat the Hawkeyes."

Ames remains home for Burrow. But Nebraska has always been a second home to him, and it was inevitable that he would become a Cornhusker if the opportunity presented itself.

Burrow had a unique appreciation for Nebraska long before his recruiting visit.

"I always saw how my dad viewed the university," he said.

"And it was always a dream of mine to play here." ■

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JET'S RETROSPECTIVE

Heisman History

Johnny Lattner

Johnny Lattner was a participant in the first annual Husker/Heisman Weekend of Excellence. He helped to provide a fun and enjoyable time for all who attended.

In 1953, when Lattner won the Heisman Trophy, two-platoon football was considered a mob scene; 22 players rushing on the field and the same amount trotting off.

It seemed a bit silly and a waste of time to fans who had become accustomed to one-platoon football. Lattner wasn't among those who believed that, however. Sources say he was neither the best runner on the team nor the best passer, blocker, tackler or kicker. But he was the best all-around player since Johnny Lujack, the 1947 Heisman Trophy winner.

Lattner, like Lujack, knew how to win. He earned All-America honors on offense and defense in both his junior and senior seasons. As a senior, he was on the field for 421 of a possible 600 minutes, scoring nine touchdowns, accounting for 424 yards on kick returns and averaging 35 yards per punt.

Lattner was in one of the closest races in history for the Heisman Trophy, edging Minnesota's Paul Giel by 56 votes. It didn't hurt that Lattner's Notre Dame team finished with a 9-0-1 record.

Although he wasn't known for his blazing speed or fancy moves during his younger years, these days, Lattner has gotten faster on his feet. On the dance floor at the annual Heisman dinner, he showed more moves than Allied Van Lines. He can really cut a rug, and he danced into the wee hours of the morning.

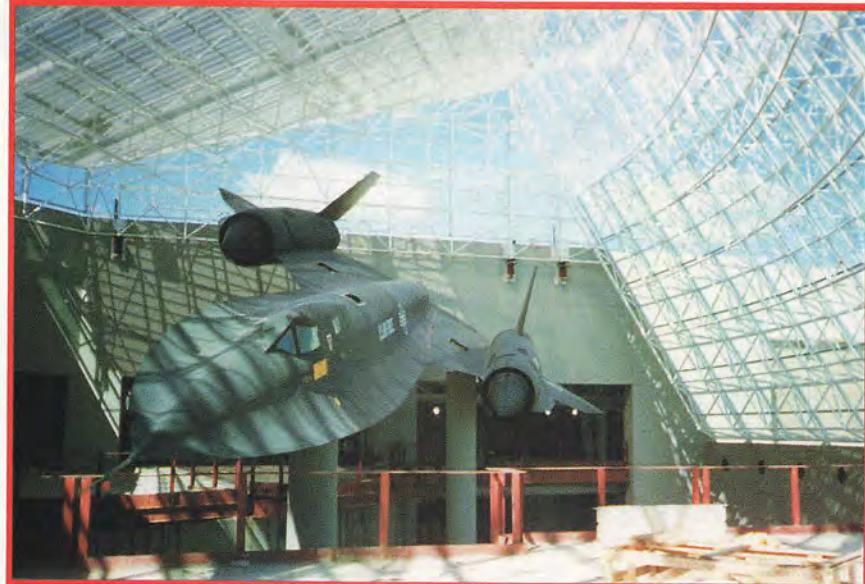
He is, by far, one of the finest Heisman Trophy winners ever and is always the first to say yes when asked to help with a charity. Lattner has been the vice-president of Pal Graphics in Broadview, Ill., for the past 20 years, residing in Oak Park, Ill., with his wife Margaret. He has eight children. ■



Johnny LATTNER



Johnny
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Danny Nee was being pursued by Troy Piatkowski at Laser Quest in Lincoln. Nee was turning to fire his laser gun at Piatkowski when he slammed into a wall in the pitch-black room.

The Nebraska men's basketball coach went down. His nose, though not broken, was bleeding profusely. Piatkowski and several others in the group, including Nee's son Kevin, came up and began firing at the fallen coach, increasing their point totals in the Laser Quest competition. Two weeks later, a mark on the bridge of Nee's nose was still noticeable.

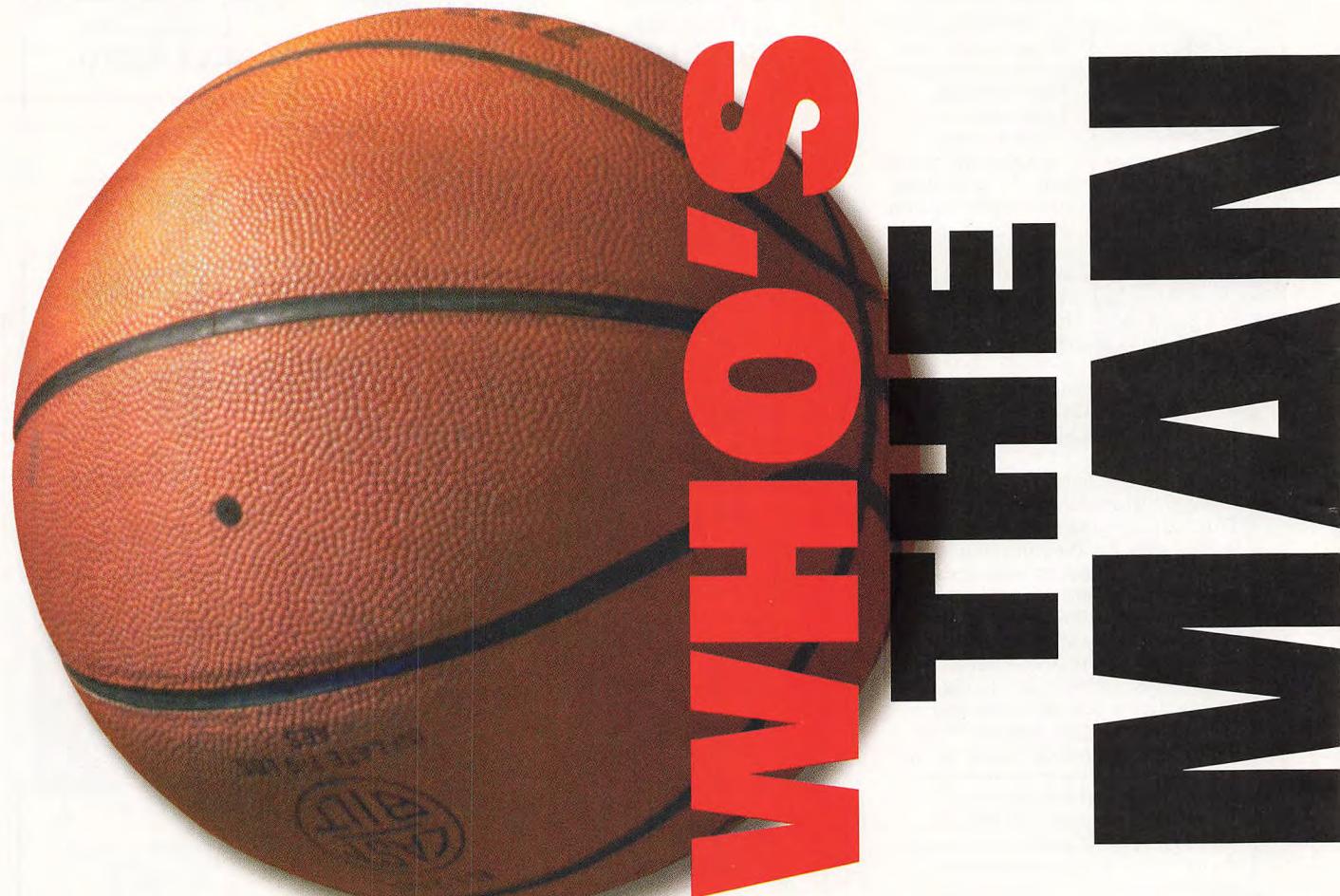
"Our next game is bowling. We're going to go midnight bowling," he said. "There's less chance of injury." And, he added, "I'm going to start practicing."

Despite the injury, Nee enjoyed the Laser Quest experience.

"We had a riot," he said, referring not only to himself and Kevin but also to a group that included Nebraska players and student managers, as well as former Cornhusker Tyrone Lue.

The outing was arranged by the team, and senior Andy Markowski invited Nee to come along. "I show up and the guys are surprised," said Nee.

Nee is optimistic about his 13th



season at Nebraska. And the trip to Laser Quest helps illustrate one of the reasons.

"The whole thing has changed," he said. "Guys get along. They like each other.

"That unity, that cohesiveness, if I can just keep working on the chemistry and convince them the enemy is in the other lockerroom, not our lockerroom . . . that's the whole thing. "If you want to sum up this season, we've got a team."

At the bottom of a mission statement distributed to the players before the start of practice in mid-October was the motto: TOGETHER EVERY-ONE ACHIEVES MORE!!!

Togetherness is an essential element of Nee's plan for a team characterized by depth and experience. He has at least two players competing at every position, and he intends to include them all in the rotation this season, provided they make the commitment and are willing to accept their roles.

"They're going to be playing at that 'A' level or I'm going to be sitting them, resting them," Nee said. "I'm going to have a quick trigger with all of them. I'm not going to wear them out in the first third of the season. I'm really going to play the bench, develop it for that last third of the season."

198-99?

**THERE
ISN'T ONE . . .
. . . THERE'S A
. . . TEAM**

TEAM

Nee relied on eight players a year ago when Nebraska was 20-12 and advanced to the NCAA Tournament, where it lost to Arkansas in the first round at Boise, Idaho, 74-65. Last season, "there were some guys I couldn't take off the floor," he said. "If I did, I was nervous."

By the time the team got to Boise, "we were tired. Not mentally, just tired," Nee said.

The player he absolutely couldn't afford to take off the floor, of course, was Lue, the point guard. But that's no longer a concern because Lue is now a member of the Los Angeles Lakers, opting to bypass his senior season of collegiate eligibility in favor of the NBA — with Nee's blessing.

Lue's early departure "wasn't a shock," Nee said. "That was a mutual understanding.

The most experienced perimeter player, versatile junior Cookie Belcher could also see playing time at point guard if the need arises.

"It went as smoothly as I could have asked. It was completely Tyronn's decision, and we were going to support him. There's a point in your life where you're poor, you feel you're ready, you believe you're ready, you work hard like Tyronn did, and you make the decision to go."

With Lue gone, there's a void at point guard, which Nee hopes to fill by a "committee" that includes junior college transfer Joe Holmes and redshirt freshmen Cary Cochran and Todd Smith.

The 5-foot-11, 195-pound Holmes, whom Nee compares to former Cornhusker Keith Moody in physical appearance and playing style, was recruited for that purpose. He's a "total team player and a very good defender," Nee said. "He's smart and

"They're going to be playing at that 'A' level or I'm going to be sitting them, resting them."

Danny Nee

tough, and he knows exactly why he's here."

Versatile junior Cookie Belcher also could play the point if the need arises.

"That's absolutely a possibility," Nee said.

Belcher, "our most experienced perimeter player," started every game last season and played more minutes than everyone except Lue, averaging 11.1

points and 3.9 rebounds. "I think Cookie Belcher has got to be one of the premier players in the conference and in the country," said Nee.

"He's a big-time athlete. He can score. He can play defense. He jumps out of the arena. He rebounds. He's worked on his ballhandling and his free-throw shooting, and I see him stepping up one whole notch in being a very, very important part of the puzzle. We need him to have consistency."

The same is true of senior Venson Hamilton.

The 6-10, 240-pound Hamilton was second in the Big 12 in rebounding a year ago, averaging 9.8 per game. He also shot 55.6 percent from the field, averaged 11.2 points and led the conference with 17 games in which he finished with double-figure totals in points and rebounds.

Hamilton "is a natural rebounder. He has a natural instinct, almost like a (Dennis) Rodman-type that he can get his hands on the ball," said Nee. "But he has to come with his hardhat on every night."

"He's got to play every night, stay injury-free and on the court, without being in foul trouble. He's got to give us quality minutes. In big games, he's got to play big. He can't be getting it all against North Carolina A&T. I want him to set some records against Kansas and Oklahoma, Villanova."

"We need 16, 18 points and rebounds every night, not 30 points and 20 rebounds one night and then the next night get a donut. He just needs to take it one game at a time, keep his focus."

When Hamilton is playing his "A" game, "he's the real deal," Nee said.

Markowski, a 6-8, 215-pound senior, has assumed a leadership role.

"The guy has really shown his five years in the program. He has really blossomed," Nee said of Markowski. "Our fifth-year players have been a



charm for us, and I expect him to have a really solid year.

"I don't want to wear him out early. I've got to have him around. That means physically, really playing his best basketball in February and March. So I've got to pace him. He's a horse that wants to go out and run the race all in the first quarter, and I have to have him ready for the latter part of the season."

In addition to Belcher, Hamilton and Markowski, seniors Piatkowski and Larry Florence and sophomore Chad Johnson all started 10 or more games last season.

Florence started 18 of the last 20 games, averaging 8.9 points and 3.7 rebounds. Johnson came on to start the final 10 games as a true freshman. He averaged 3.8 points and 2.8 rebounds.

Sophomore Brant Harriman also played as a true freshman, providing support inside as a backup.

"He did everything we asked of him last year," Nee said. "I see him sliding up a notch, really being a quality backup to Venson Hamilton. He gives us a big, strong player in the middle, which we're going to need against some big men in our league."

In addition to Holmes, newcomer Louis Truscott, a 6-7, 200-pound freshman from Houston described by Nee as a "Carl Hayes-type player," will be counted on for immediate help.

Guard Rodney Fields, Holmes' teammate at Tyler (Texas) Junior College, will redshirt, after being diagnosed with a stress fracture in his leg and undergoing surgery.

"I have so much respect for him and he's such a good player, I don't want to make the mistake I made with Todd (Smith) and bring him back and play him too quickly," said Nee.

Smith had a similar problem last season and tried to come back and play. After seeing limited action in six games, however, the decision was made to hold him out as a medical red-shirt. Fields, who signed a letter-of-intent with Nebraska out of high school, will still have two seasons of eligibility.

Walkons Bryan Buchanan, a 6-1 guard from Lincoln, and Bryce Bauer, a 6-8 forward from Ainsworth and Ross Buckendahl, a transfer from Northeast (Neb.) Community College, complete the roster. Buchanan is the son of former Cornhusker Henry Buchanan.

Nee is optimistic about the season, even though the early preseason publi-

cations have Nebraska pegged in the middle of the pack in the Big 12. "We think the strength of this team is our depth and experience," Nee said. "We just have to find five guys who are playing well (at a given time).

"If they happen to be all guards or all big guys, I don't care. The way we've got our system set up, we could change all the parts and we could still get the ball up the floor to our big men.

"Our one, two and three (positions) are interchangeable and our four and five are interchangeable. We think now that at every position, five

through one, we have at least two players. And if we interchange, we have three or four players who can play each position. That's the team aspect of it."

Team is the theme for the Cornhuskers. The fading scar on the bridge of Nee's nose is evidence.

"What we have now is a team. I really mean that," he said. "I think we've got a lot of parts that we can interchange. The way we're running our system now, we can interchange people and play.

"I think that's really important. And that's what we're going to do." ■

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Danny Nee has coached at Nebraska for 12 seasons. Before that, he was the head coach at Ohio University. And before that, he was an assistant coach at Notre Dame.

He received his bachelor's degree from St. Mary of the Plains College in Dodge City, Kan., and his master's degree from Kansas State. "I'm so un-New York it's scary," he said recently. "To think I'm from New York would be like saying the Pilgrims came from France or something."

"New York City? I don't think I could even get on a subway."

Even though Nee has lived much of his adult life in the Midwest, however, some Nebraskans still regard him as a New Yorker, with whatever pejorative connotations that carries.

Granted, he's a Brooklyn native, and he attended Power Memorial Academy in Manhattan, where he was a basketball teammate of Lew Alcindor, now Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

"But I haven't been back there, really, since about 1964," he said. "That's the last time I really lived in New York. That's a long time ago. So I don't see myself as a New Yorker. I really don't."

The fact that some do is perplexing. "The only thing I can think of why they have this perception of me is because of the way I look, or I guess the tone of my voice — that will always be a part of it," he said.

Typically, the New Yorker references have arisen in negative contexts.

"I've been criticized for being from New York, on being slick. I've been compared to a used-car salesman. I

mean they've taken some pretty good shots at me," said Nee.

Such personal attacks have "changed my attitude toward the press," he said. "It's changed my attitude toward the fans, or the critics. You have to be very, very thick-skinned about it."

"Coach (Tom) Osborne kind of shared that with me, taught me that. Not many people have brought that up, but I don't think I'm as care-free and open, swing-from-the-hip, as when I came here."

A more reserved Nee is still more straightforward than most successful coaches. And the record shows that there has never been a more successful men's basketball coach in Cornhusker history.

Nee takes a 223-158 (.585) record into his 13th season at Nebraska. His teams have averaged nearly 20 victories per season and played in 10 postseason tournaments, including a school-record eight in a row. The Cornhuskers have advanced to the NCAA Tournament five times.

Nebraska won the Big Eight postseason tournament in 1994. And it won the National Invitation Tournament two seasons later, an accomplishment discounted by some.

"The NIT was, in my opinion, a triumph. It was a success," Nee said.

"I thought it was perceived in Nebraska as mediocre. But across the



country, there are many, many coaches and programs that would give their right arm for a national championship, even the NIT. There are a lot of good basketball programs that go to that tournament and don't win it.

"We went many times and didn't win it. So I think winning it was a major step."

Advancing to the NCAA Tournament also was a major step in the development of the program. The Cornhuskers did that four seasons in a row (1991-94) and again last season.

They have yet to win a game in the NCAA Tournament, however. And there's the rub.

"We have not been able to knock down that door," said Nee. "And I think in major college basketball, if you're a Top 50 program, a Top 40 program, it's what you do in the NCAA Tournament."

"So that's our major goal, to get to the NCAA Tournament and win — not one game but some games. Then I think the whole attitude, the percep-

A Matter Of PERCEPTION

He's viewed by some as aloof — a typical New Yorker. He's even been called a used car salesman. In reality, he's none of these things; just a basketball coach trying to win over a football-hungry state • By Mike BABCOCK



tion, will change."

Success in the NCAA Tournament, however it's measured, is the only element missing from a program that more than measures up by any other standard, off the court as well as on.

"We're graduating our players," said Nee. "I believe today, as we sit here, we have 42 seniors who have used up their eligibility, and we've graduated about 30 of them. That's over 70 percent."

Rich King, who recently returned to Nebraska to complete his degree after calling it quits on an injury-plagued NBA career, was the first of three first-round NBA draft picks to play for Nee at Nebraska. The others

"... they've taken some pretty good shots at me. You have to be very, very thick-skinned about it. Coach (Tom) Osborne kind of shared that with me, taught me that."
Danny Nee

were Eric Piatkowski and Tyronn Lue, who bypassed his senior season and was drafted by the Los Angeles Lakers in the 1998 NBA draft.

"We're really proud of him," Nee said of Lue. "Tyronn has done a tremendous job. He's the first player in Nebraska basketball history to go early (in the draft). We think that's success."

In addition, former Nee Cornhuskers Erick Strickland and Tony Farmer earned their way into the NBA as free agents. "There are four players we've had in the NBA," said Nee. "I mean, if I remember correctly, when I came here, people were complaining about (Nebraska's) 6-foot-5 centers.

"Now we've had four players in the NBA (plus Lue). And we have a couple who could be."

Senior Venson Hamilton and junior Cookie Belcher "will have a legitimate shot at playing in the NBA. So I think we've taken the whole level of the program and moved it up," Nee said. "How far, I'm not sure. But we've moved it up. We're not some fly-by-night, basketball-at-a-football-school (program).

"We're a solid contender. We recruit quality players. They come in and they graduate."

The program has progressed. "But we need a breakout year," he said. "I won't kid you."

"We'd like to win 25, 30 games, go to the Final Four, be in St. Petersburg. I'd love to be in St. Petersburg playing. We built the expectations up. And that's the goal."

"Can we do it? I don't know. I believe we can. We're certainly going to try."

"That's what we're working for," Nee said.

That's Nee as in Nebraska, not New York.

"I think coaching at Nebraska is a good job. I like coaching here," he said. "We have a lot going for us, and a lot of it is a secret. The quality of life, the commitment of the administration to the coaches, the commitment by the fans who support Nebraska sports, it's all positive."

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Naatjes To Nebraska?

RUMORS

One of Nebraska's top recruits is having a hard time choosing between football and baseball. **Darin Naatjes** (6-foot-7, 230 pounds, with 4.5 speed in the 40-yard dash) of Inwood (West Lyons), Iowa, is an all-world athlete who Nebraska is recruiting as a tight end/outside linebacker. He also happens to be a good enough center-fielder that major league baseball scouts believe he will go in the first five rounds of the 1999 draft.

Nebraska still leads over Arizona State, Iowa State and Iowa. However, if the Huskers do land him, he definitely wants to play both sports.

"I am leaning on going to college, but if I do, I will play both sports," said Naatjes. "Nebraska has told me that I can play both with no problem. I really like everything about Nebraska, and they also have the advantage because of a friend of mine on the team. Kyle (Vanden Bosch) tells me all the time about all the good things about Nebraska. I can't go wrong if I sign there."

Linebacker **Cory Redding** (6-5, 235, 4.6) of Galena Park (North Shore), Texas, says he has at least four of his visits set in his mind. Redding is regarded as the top player in Texas and one of the top five linebackers in the country. The lucky four are Texas, Colorado, Arizona and Nebraska. Texas A&M, Florida State and Ohio State are all vying for the fifth visit.

Offensive lineman **A.J. Ricker** (6-5, 280, 5.1) of Klein, Texas, hopes to set a visit to Nebraska. Ricker has already visited Texas A&M and will go to Missouri (leader) on Dec. 4, Baylor Dec. 11 and Arkansas Dec. 18. Ricker is holding his fifth visit for the Huskers.

Tight end/outside linebacker **Jarrod Penright** (6-2, 230, 4.6) of Aldine (Eisenhower), Texas, has a top three of Nebraska, Michigan and Texas A&M. Penright is regarded as a top 100 talent in Texas and has set his first visit with Texas A&M for Dec. 12.

The Huskers appear to be falling behind on running back **Reggie Duncan** (5-9, 200, 4.5) of Killeen (Ellison), Texas. Duncan's first visit is with LSU (Dec. 19) and he has a tentative visit with Oklahoma State in early January. Kansas, Texas A&M and OU appear to be getting his other three. However, Duncan says that his list can change at any time.

Another running back who was considering Nebraska is **William Green** (6-1, 220, 4.5) of Absecon (Holy Spirit), N.J. Green, one of the top powerlifters in the country, has backed away from Nebraska, listing North Carolina, Wisconsin and Penn State as his top three choices. ■

Turning The Corner

So you want to play cornerback at the Division I-A level? Covering the nation's top receivers is just part of the job

By James HALE

A lot is being asked of college cornerbacks these days. In addition to playing press coverage and tight man-to-man, cornerbacks must also be able to support the run and play a physical brand of football.

Those are just some of the intangibles that a collegiate cover corner must have if he hopes to play at Nebraska. Sounds tough, doesn't it? It takes a rare and great athlete to play cornerback in college football, especially at Nebraska. The Cornhuskers are always attacking and doing everything possible to shut down the run. That leaves the cornerbacks alone in man-to-man coverage on some of the best—and biggest—wide receivers in the country.

Granted, at times the Cornhuskers are in zone coverage in the secondary, but the tremendous athletic ability needed is always showcased no matter the defensive scheme. Let's face it, playing cornerback at Nebraska is special and those who make the grade are some of the very best athletes in the country.

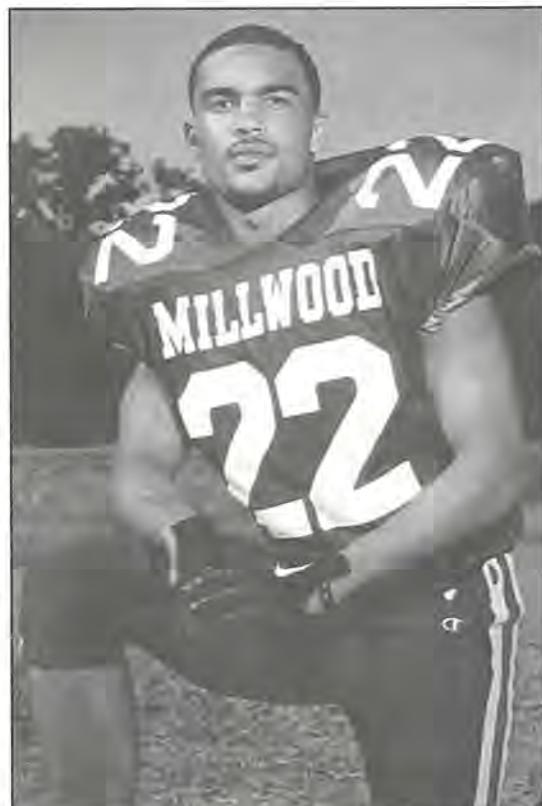
Two athletes out of the state of Florida seem to be a perfect fit for what the Cornhuskers are looking for in a cornerback. **Anguan Boldin** (6-foot-1, 192 pounds, 4.45 speed in the 40-yard dash) of Pahokee is one of the top all-around athletes in the country. A great two-way star Boldin is being recruited as a running back in some quarters and as a cornerback in others.

We can't blame those for

recruiting Boldin to run with the football, especially after his 2,008-yard season a year ago. He also threw for 1,511 yards as one of the best run/pass quarterbacks in the country. Boldin also reached the end zone 35 times.

Boldin didn't know his stats this season, but felt he was on pace to post similar numbers. He also has three interceptions on defense, just one shy of what he posted last year. The fact Boldin doesn't throw the ball with great finesse may lead him to the defensive side of the ball.

Boldin was the MVP of the Michigan camp this summer, and he's



Elbert Craig is one of the top cover corners in the nation, although at 6-1, 193 pounds, he has the physical tools to excel at safety. In fact, he has spent most of this season playing linebacker.

REP REPORT

Keeping Up With COLBY FREEMAN

always talked highly of Florida State. Ohio State, West Virginia and Nebraska are also in the picture.

"I have just now started considering Nebraska," said Boldin. "If I don't consider them, I think that I am not doing myself justice. Nebraska is one of the top programs in the country, and their skill athletes are outstanding. I don't think I will play quarterback, but I can see myself at cornerback or free safety."

Lito Sheppard (5-11, 185, 4.4) of Jacksonville (Raines) is another two-way threat at wide receiver and cornerback. Most college recruiters feel Sheppard's future is at cornerback, which is fine with him. A year ago, he managed 15 interceptions through 15 games and loves to ball-hawk.

"I really think with my size and speed that cornerback is where I am going to wind up playing," said Sheppard. "I love to come up with picks and play corner very aggressively. I can make a living playing on the defensive side of the ball."

Nebraska has managed to get into the recruiting game late, but Florida leads over Ohio State, Georgia and Auburn.

Sam Davis (6-0, 175, 4.4) of Humble, Texas, is a preseason All-American ranked as one of the top 10 cornerbacks in the country. Davis is always looking to break on the ball, coming up with 10 interceptions a year ago. This season Humble is 5-2, and teams are trying to throw away from Davis. Despite the limited action, Davis has two interceptions and has returned one kickoff 93 yards for a touchdown.

A great athlete who benches 300 pounds, Davis has long jumped almost 23 feet, and he sports a 37-inch vertical jump. It seems all the great players from Humble leave the state, and Davis is looking to possibly follow that trend. Texas A&M is the only in-state school that Davis is considering, with Michigan, Notre Dame and Nebraska in his top four.

"I really like Nebraska's defense," said Davis. "The Blackshirts have a tradition to them, and their cornerbacks are always great players. They play bump-and-run coverage, and I like playing that style. I always want to be matched up with the top wide receiver from the other team and shut him down. That is my favorite thing in football to do."

Kendrick Turner (5-11, 170, 4.3) of Dallas (Kimball) is a top 100 talent in

When I look at a college, I am trying to find an offense that suits my talents. I will just be more comfortable in an offense that runs some option and then throws the ball some. (Nebraska quarterbacks coach) Turner Gill was at our game, and I called him back Sunday and he told me something I haven't realized: I have been running the option for four years, and if I went to a school that is running the option, I would get to build on what I have already learned. I have thought about that to a certain sense, but not as deeply as what coach Gill said.

If I talk to a coach and he's honest with me, if he tells me they are going to put in some option, then I would consider them. If I am told that I am not going to run the ball at all, then that's something that I may have to turn away from. Of course, you can always count on Nebraska running the option. Texas A&M is trying to implement a little option game in its offense. Syracuse has the option; so does Notre Dame. That fact broadens my list of schools somewhat, but at the same time, it cuts down on the schools that I had in mind.

Schools like Oklahoma haven't shown much interest in me thus far, yet they are trying to find quarterbacks who can run option football. When I heard they had gone back to option football, I got excited because it's close to home and they are running my style of offense. I don't know if they are loaded on quarterbacks or not, but it's not too late for them to call me. Remember, we asked college coaches not to call us, and that has kept some new schools from getting in touch with us right now, but I hope that somehow we can get the word out to Oklahoma and a couple of others that I do have some interest in them.

I am going to be open, and if somebody offered me a better opportunity than somebody else, I would be crazy not to take a close look at it. I am still open-minded in recruiting. I play a position that allows me to find a situation that really fits what I want to do. I don't know how an offensive lineman or a linebacker can really find a situation that totally fits their skills. If I had been running and throwing in the option equally, then I would think it would be easier to find that style of offense.

Besides Nebraska being at my game, I know that Texas was there, along with Oklahoma. I heard that Baylor was there along with Kansas and Tennessee. It's kind of hard to look at new schools. That's hard without hearing from the new coaches because they can't call me. I really don't know how they feel about me. I guess I will find out soon enough.

We won our last game, 42-35, over Crowley. It was a tough game that we were supposed to win, but coming off our win two weeks ago over Stephenville, it was tough to play like we did. We had to come up with a great drive at the end, throwing a little bootleg at the end to seal the game up for us.

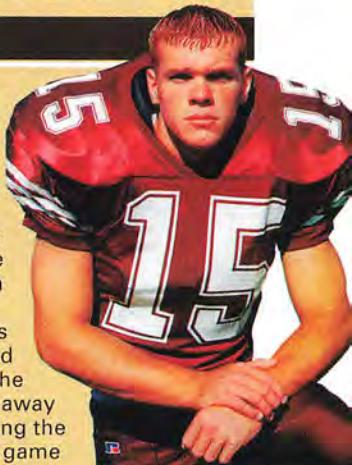
I had my best game ever. I had 11 carries for 227 yards rushing, and I had another 179 yards passing. I threw for two touchdowns and I ran for three.

It seems that we are getting into a lot of high scoring games. I think it's the fact that we have had so much success, coupled with the publicity that we have received, that everybody is going to play their best game against Brownwood.

I have noticed that our games are higher scoring. It's a trend in high school football really. It's hard for defenses to prepare in one week for everything that offenses are doing today. In high school football I don't think there is such a thing as man-to-man coverage. Quarterbacks in high school should be able to pick man-to-man coverage apart, and coaches know that. They are not going to put their secondary in man coverage against a top flight quarterback.

At this point I am just going through my recruiting stuff, anything that I receive, trying to find out more about the offenses those colleges are running. I have learned a little about Syracuse and a couple of others. My main plan is to find the schools that I am very interested in, watch them to make sure, and then contact them and maybe work out something for a visit down the road. I am not going to rush into it yet, so I can take my time with it for a little while longer.

Jared Morris is another high profile recruit on our team at middle linebacker. We have never really talked about going to the same school together, but it would be fun. We all decided to go to the same camps back in the summer. We both went to Texas A&M and Nebraska and thought that was fun. We were both exposed at the same time and both enjoyed the trip. ■ — **As told to James Hale**



**Colby
FREEMAN**

Throughout the 1998 football season, Huskers Illustrated will chronicle the recruiting process of Brownwood quarterback Colby Freeman, one of the top prospects in Texas.

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Texas who is also drawing national attention. At the Texas summer camp, Turner turned in the amazing time of 4.28 in the 40-yard dash. He picked off four passes a year ago and has two this season during Kimball's 6-1 season. Turner has already set a visit to Texas A&M (Dec. 18), and is looking at Texas, Florida State, Nebraska, SMU and OU for his other four.

"I like Nebraska because they are an established program and are always winning," said Turner. "They play a great brand of football. I like the challenge of playing one-on-one on the corners."

Terrence Calhoun (5-11, 183, 4.3) of Austin (Reagan), Texas, is pure speed on the corner, but he uses that speed at running back, as well. An all-purpose performer, Calhoun rushed for over 1,000 yards, had over 500 yards in receiving and 500 yards in kick returns last season. On defense, Calhoun had 80 tackles and five interceptions and can bench 300 pounds. Calhoun doesn't have his statistics this season, but says his performance has been more of the same.

Calhoun is being recruited coast-to-coast and has visits set with Michigan (Dec. 5) and LSU (Dec. 12). Nebraska is also getting a visit, but a date isn't set yet. Kentucky, Texas, Texas A&M, USC and Kansas State are fighting for the other two.

"Nebraska is always winning, and that is what is important," said Calhoun. "Nebraska has a chance to play for a national championship every year, and I love that about them. They have a great program with an excellent coaching staff and a tradition that is one of the best in the country."

Rufus Brown (5-9, 182, 4.42) of El Paso (Austin), Texas, is a great option quarterback who many college recruiters like better as a cornerback. Brown would like a shot at quarterback, which Nebraska is glad to provide. OU has an early lead with Rice, Nebraska, Florida State, Miami and Stanford in the picture.

Brandon Williams (5-11, 175, 4.4) of Omaha (Central), Neb., is the best cornerback prospect in Nebraska. Williams has run a 10.5 100-meters and 21.9 200. He plays both ways at wide receiver and cornerback and is an excellent kick returner. Williams is playing in only his second year of organized football and is getting better every game. During Central's 4-3 start, Williams has one interception, six pass breakups, has rushed for 678 yards (12 yards per carry) and scored five touch-

downs. Williams has also returned two 87 yard kickoffs for touchdowns.

Williams says Iowa State and New Mexico State have offered scholarships, with Michigan, Nebraska and Colorado State offering visits.

"I was really surprised when Nebraska lost to Texas A&M," said Williams. "That caught me off guard. I have always been a Nebraska fan and I never expect them to lose. They always



Rufus Brown would like an opportunity to play quarterback in college — something Nebraska coaches are willing to give him.

have great corners and always challenge them to play one-on-one which is just what I want. I also think I can help them in the kick return game."

Elbert Craig (6-1, 193, 4.5) of Oklahoma City (Millwood) is a pre-season All-American who has listed Nebraska among his top four. Also an excellent wide receiver, Craig is actually playing outside linebacker this year and already has nine sacks to his credit through Millwood's first seven games. Early in the year, OU was his favorite, but the coaching turmoil has caused him to back off. Craig says that Kansas State and Oklahoma State are his leaders, with OU and Nebraska also getting visits.

Bryce McGill (5-11, 190, 4.5) of Bakersfield, California also hopes to hear from Nebraska. Considered one of the top 20 defensive backs on the West Coast, McGill has visits set with Colorado State, Arizona State and Oregon. ■



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Thorn In Their Pride

Forget national titles and conference championships; the Cornhuskers need to dig down to position themselves for a solid bowl bid



**Mike
BABCOCK**

CHAD KELSBY has known the frustration of only four losses in his four seasons at Nebraska. But the senior rush end and co-captain from Auburn, Neb., has never been more disappointed than he was following the Cornhuskers' 20-16 loss against Texas at Memorial Stadium on Halloween.

Kelsay was a sophomore in 1996 when Nebraska lost to Arizona State in Tempe, Ariz., 19-0, and then lost to Texas, 37-27, in

the first Big 12 championship game in St. Louis.

He also endured the 28-21 loss at Texas A&M this season.

"First of all, it's strange to lose in this program," Kelsay said. "But to lose at home . . . I mean, we haven't done it since 1991, and that's what hurts the most," he said. "Being a senior, it's something I've thought about. I didn't want to be (in) that senior class that lost at home."

"I'd have to say it's the lowest point in my athletic career. I feel like I let so many guys down, guys I don't even know who started this tradition and started this streak here at home."

The streak stood at 47 victories, fifth-best all-time in NCAA Division I-A.

"When you play at home, you've got to play at another level and just make sure . . . I mean, this is your house. You don't let somebody beat you at your own place," said Kelsay.

Even after Nebraska's final play, an incomplete pass by Eric Crouch intended for Matt Davison on fourth-and-6 from the Cornhusker 49-yard line with 1:58 remaining, Kelsay had a faint hope.

"I never give up," he said. "But when you know all they have to do is down the ball . . . I was still going those last few plays, trying to find some way to get that ball out of there because if there's time on the clock and they're running the ball, there's still a chance you can get a fumble and take it back."

"But toward the end, when all (Texas) had to do is down it . . . it just takes the wind out of you."

It certainly took the wind out of the partisan crowd of 76,434. When the Longhorns took possession after the incomplete pass, the fans began heading, en masse, to the exits.



Redshirt freshman offensive lineman Dominic Raiola is disconsolate on the Cornhusker bench at the end of Texas' 20-16 victory over Nebraska.

Texas capitalized on some big plays offensively while limiting Nebraska to one touchdown, on a 38-yard run by Crouch late in the third quarter. The Cornhuskers lacked consistency on offense and fumbled three times, losing one inside the Texas 10-yard line when it appeared they might take control.

"We're not blaming anything," Kelsay said. "We're a team here. I don't think we played as well as we should have. If the offense puts up the points they did today, we should be able to win the game. We gave up too many points ourselves. It's nothing like we're blaming anybody."

"I look right at myself. If I'm going to blame anybody, I'll point right at myself."

"We were getting no pressure," said defensive coordinator Charlie McBride. And without pressure, Texas quarterback Major Applewhite gave the Blackshirts fits through the air.

The Cornhuskers sacked Applewhite three times for 22 yards in losses. Even so, the freshman still had too much time to find his swift receivers, according to Kelsay.

"Our defensive backs played great," he said. "You can't expect them to cover back there forever. If we get the pressure we usually do, a lot of those big plays don't happen."

The secondary will recover and be ready to go, according to senior defensive back Mike Brown, who was involved in 18 tackles. "We have a lot of character and great unity," he said.

Nebraska's hopes of returning to the Big 12 championship game for a third consecutive season were all but eliminated by the loss. Now, the Cornhuskers must position themselves for a bowl game.

"You've got to dig down deep," Kelsay said. "Now it's starting to play for pride. A lot of people could fold and say we're not going to be able to accomplish the stuff we wanted to and give up."

"But I don't think that's the character around here. We're going to bounce back."

"You've got to play for pride. These kind of things are going to happen in the real world. Football's a big part of our lives, but it's going to end. When we get out in the real world, we're going to have some bumps like this. And if you give up, you're going to be a loser your whole life." ■

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